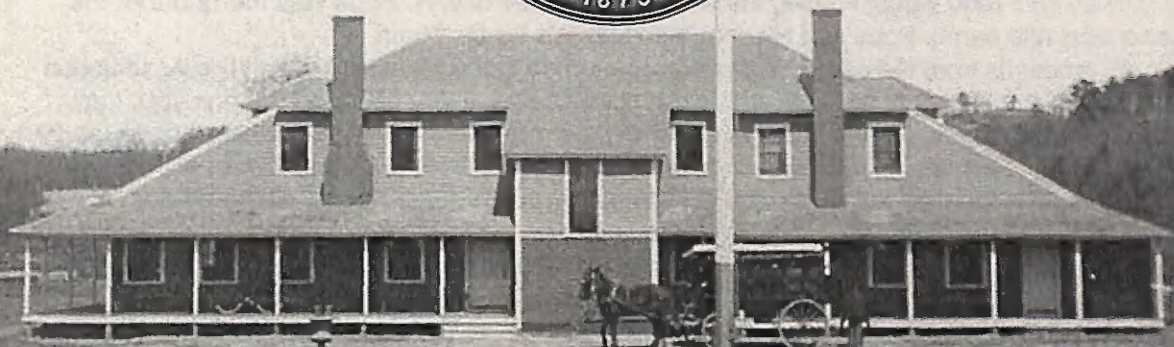


# Tales of Walnut Hill



By Robert Summa

Volume 7





## Welcome to the Tales of Walnut Hill

We have a rich history we will share as you read this book. We will look at the past and the all-time greats that left their mark on the history of Walnut Hill: the masters of rifle shooting and pistol shooting. They generated the spirit of the Hill through competitive shooting. What they built and shot was a challenge. They were the distinguished shooters of the Hill. They came from all over the country to shoot at Walnut Hill. We have Harry Pope, the greatest barrel maker of his time and a master rifle shooter. We have Niedner, an all-time great, a master rifle shooter, and one of the top gun smiths of his time who chased Geronamo all over the southwest in the 6th Calvary. Then there is Dr. Mann, the father of ballistics, who in 1909 published *The Bullet's Flight* in his quest for the magic bullet and the magic barrel for the perfect score with the perfect rifle. He was a medical doctor and gave up his practice for his quest in ballistics. Then there are D. L. F. Chase, Ned Roberts, Horace Warner, H. V. Perry, Norman Brockway, C. W. Rowland, H. L. Willard, E. A. Leopold, W. V. Lowe, the Russell brothers, Arthur Corbin Gould, N. C. Nash, O. E. Gerrish, John Kelley, Will Hayes, Dr. W. G. Hudson, the great offhand shot Adolph Strecker, Dr. Baker, L. P. Hansen, Young, Mr. Fry, Daniel Fox, Major Hinman, F.J. Rabbeth and Professor Bell, Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Briggs, E. E. Patridge. All are the masters of the rifle. The masters of pistol are C. Paine, Tom Anderton, Eugene Patridge, and Dorothy Knight at Walnut Hill. The riflemen of the Hill, having looked at the American militia team's defeat at Creedmoor, decided to do something about it, so they trained a militia rifle team. Some were members of Walnut Hill and knew the game of long range shooting, and were sent to Creedmoor where they won every event entered. The Walnut Hill riflemen were men of stature: doctors, engineers, and masters of their trade. They were men that enjoyed the shooting sport and did all they could to preserve it for the future generations to come. They shot offhand at ranges of 600, 800, 900, and 1000 yards, holding the finest rifles of their day. H. Pope was the father of the gane twist rifle barrel. Pope and Niedner made barrels for Dr. Mann.

All proceeds from the selling of these books will go to the Massachusetts Rifle Association to preserve the history of the M.R.A. through our Museum. If you can help, I thank you. I am looking for old photos of Walnut Hill to share with our membership. The one thing I have learned about history: if someone does not record it, it is lost for all time. But these books will present a vast history which we will share with the world. As you read and look at all the photos, know the books will be a treasure for future generations after we have all come and gone. The books detail the Tales of Walnut Hill. And we will only print 100 books in each series, for this is truly a limited edition!

Robert Summa  
M.R.A. Historian at the Walnut Hill Range

# The Massachusetts Rifle Association

## Tales of Walnut Hill

Volume 7

*I dedicate this book to*

**Robert Wright**

*for all his help over the years*

*and to a new friend "Dee" from God's Country,  
were the air is fresh in the early morning,  
and a hearty breakfast is waiting for you at  
Woodward's, I can smell the Hot Coffee now.*

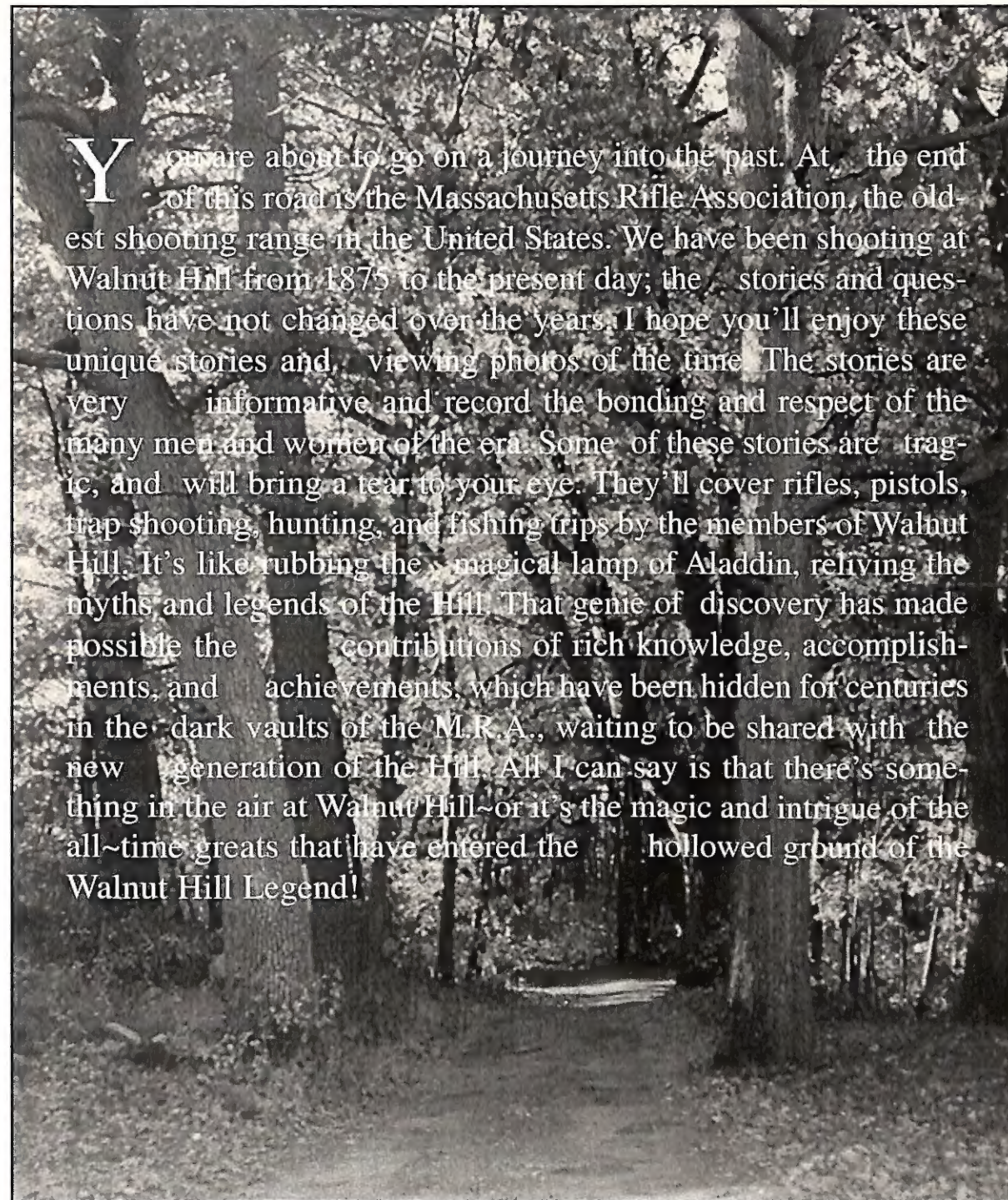


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## Introduction

**Y**ou are about to go on a journey into the past. At the end of this road is the Massachusetts Rifle Association, the oldest shooting range in the United States. We have been shooting at Walnut Hill from 1875 to the present day; the stories and questions have not changed over the years. I hope you'll enjoy these unique stories and viewing photos of the time. The stories are very informative and record the bonding and respect of the many men and women of the era. Some of these stories are tragic, and will bring a tear to your eye. They'll cover rifles, pistols, trap shooting, hunting, and fishing trips by the members of Walnut Hill. It's like rubbing the magical lamp of Aladdin, reliving the myths and legends of the Hill. That genie of discovery has made possible the contributions of rich knowledge, accomplishments, and achievements, which have been hidden for centuries in the dark vaults of the M.R.A., waiting to be shared with the new generation of the Hill. All I can say is that there's something in the air at Walnut Hill—or it's the magic and intrigue of the all-time greats that have entered the hallowed ground of the Walnut Hill Legend!





## Concerning Revolver Ammunition

During the revolver matches of the Massachusetts Rifle Association just closed I have had occasion to try divers experiments on full charges for the revolver, the results of which may be of interest. The conditions called for six shots in a minute at fifty yards, factory ammunition, and consequently one had to face the "freezing up" difficulty at its worst, and I set about trying wads for my Smith & Wesson Russian, in the hope of finding something that would enable me to fire six shots without trouble from fouling.

The ordinary factory charge of black powder works very well for deliberate shooting in warm and moist weather, but if the conditions are at all unfavorable four or five shots without cleaning produce a change in elevation, the subsequent shots rising from the increased "flip" and flying to 12, 10, or 2 o'clock, according to one's habit of holding. In firing six shots per minute this trouble is enhanced, and except in very favorable weather the last two or three shots show the result of fouling, in my own revolver, at least, the fouling with this load is in the two inches of the barrel next the muzzle, and seldom at the breech. In cold and dry weather this charge, of any make I have yet tried, will give one or more wild shots in every score.

It is with some hesitation that I bring this indictment against ammunition, for I know from experience and close observation that many, perhaps most, bad shots charged to bad ammunition are due to quite another cause. On the whole, factory ammunition is remarkably good, and generally more uniform than the shooters holding. Bad shots generally come from one of three causes: **First**, bad holding, when the bull's-eye is not properly covered as the trigger is pulled. An experienced shot recognizes the fault easily and commits it unwillingly but consciously. **Secondly**, flinching at the pull, usually from worry or general nervousness. This is also easily recognized, though not easy entirely to avoid. But the **Third** source of trouble, although common enough, generally goes unseen unless the shooter is watching for it, and sometimes when he is. This is the minute jerk given as the trigger leaves the sear and the pressure against the finger ceases. A shiver of even .01 of an inch at the front sight can throw one from a 10 to an 8, or from a 9 to a 7, and occurring as it does after the hammer begins to fall, it generally escapes notice, and the shooter makes damnable remarks about the ammunition. The best remedy lies in close attention to this particular fault, a short hammer stroke nearly in line with the bore, and perhaps a set screw behind the trigger, allowing it just to clear the sear.

Bearing all this in mind, however, it is certain that the factory charge for the Russian model does give wild shooting, due to fouling, in bad weather and recognizable not only from the score, but from the increased recoil while shooting, and the flint-like residue and lead found afterwards.

I next tried the factory smokeless charge (U.M.C.) This cartridge was loaded with about 8 grains weight of a fine, firm-grained, low pressure smokeless powder, apparently Dupont No. 2, It shot normally at the same elevation as the black powder cartridge, gave a slight report, a mere whiff of vapor, and the sharp, apparently light, recoil usual to a well-planned smokeless charge. There was practically no residue, although grains of unconsumed powder often appeared in the barrel. I am sorry to say, however, as this otherwise beautiful load proved unreliable. One or two out of every ten shots flew decidedly low, or more rarely high. A low 5 on a good hold would appear in the middle of half a dozen 9's and 10's, and an 89 (with a low 5), was the best result of a couple of days' trial, during which I frequently shot into the 90's with the black powder cartridge.

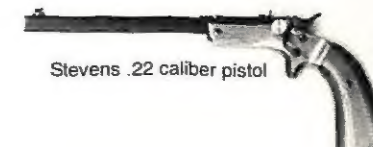
The trouble I believe to be imperfect ignition of the powder in the short charge and short barrel, as the low pressure smokeless charges work admirably in rifles according to all reports. I may add that the cartridges were fresh from the factory. A little later shooting smokeless ammunition in

the .38 Army, I was confirmed in my bad impressions, for although I got plenty of good scores on the elliptical bull's-eye, I also got a miss and a very bad 4, both at 6 o'clock, and each a marked hang fire with light recoil, Hearing next that one of the cartridge companies was contemplating a factory load of King's Semi-Smokeless, I procured a case of FFG and started experimenting. My first loads were, according to directions, a little less than the ordinary black powder load, I used 20 grains, by bulk, with the 256 grain bullet, and ordinary No. 234 primers. The result was a bad group of 6's, 5's, and 4's at 6 o'clock. The charge obviously lacked power, and I next tried 24 grains with a No. 234 W primer. This proved a powerful and accurate charge, and I promptly picked up a 92, including a 7, due to a bad hold. The smoke was light, the recoil about as with black powder, and the fouling less, it was perfectly possible, however, to get a bad case of "freeze up" in firing even 6 shots rapidly in bad weather, the freezing being just ahead of the chambers. The reduction in fouling, while noticeable, was not enough for my purpose. A high grade of rather fine grained black powder would give similar results, but with more smoke.

Next I procured some freshly loaded black powder cartridges with Wesson bullets. The combination of moist burning powder and soft lubricant is peculiarly filthy, but in ordinary weather it leaves no hard residue. It shoots at precisely the same elevation as the ordinary cartridge; in fact, I got a 97, the first half of the score being made with Wesson bullets, the second with ordinary, and have often loaded the chambers with the two cartridges alternating and with good results. In cold and dry winter weather, however, even this load "freezes up" enough to impair the accuracy materially after three or four shots, and cleaning is essential after a six-shot score. This cleaning tends to make the first shot of the next score too low, and the elevation rises as the fouling begins again. The residue is hard enough to resist a brush or a damp rag, and requires plenty of water, or the point of a sharp stick to dislodge it, with this cartridge I have never found freezing near the muzzle; it is always just ahead of the chambers.

This is rather a dismal tale, but it may save trouble for some of the fraternity, I have not yet found a factory load which will hold its accuracy for quick firing in bad weather even for six shots, although good results may be obtained under ordinary weather conditions. Of course, careful nitro priming would help materially, but in these matches reloaded ammunition was barred, and no factory loads so primed are now available. My greatest disappointment was in the smokeless charge, which was simply perfect most of the time, but liable to fail at a critical moment. I cannot help thinking that better results can be obtained with smokeless powder, and intend to try some careful experiments with it.

L. BELL Boston, Mass.



Stevens .22 caliber pistol



## A Nitro Charge for Revolvers

A few weeks ago I attacked the problem of working out a reliable charge of nitro powder for the Smith & Wesson .44, and have now been sufficiently successful to make the experiment worth reporting. Having had an unpleasant experience with factory ammunition loaded with DuPont No. 2, which is certainly a good type of low pressure nitros, I concluded to try the high pressure variety. Your esteemed correspondent, John Q. Reed, very kindly gave me the results of his trials with Walsrode, noting that he had found difficulty with the full weight bullet on account of extreme pressure. My intention was to find a charge equal in power to the factory load of black powder and not less accurate.

I began work with about the latest thing in high pressure nitros, the new green Walsrode shotgun powder. As this variety may be unknown to many readers, it is worth briefly describing, it is a fine, dark greenish-gray powder, resembling very dark sea sand, and has quite a perceptible ethereal odor. On ordinary ignition it burns rather less readily than most nitros, but when detonated is exceedingly quick, though it gives rather lower pressure than the ordinary Walsrode. The normal shotgun charges of this green Walsrode are about 10 per cent larger than with the older kind, and it is in general a little milder.

At first I tried grains, by bulk, behind a 1 to 30 175-grain Ideal bullet, which barely reached the 50 yard target and showed very incomplete combustion. The 256-grain bullet of the same temper behaved in a similar fashion, and I gradually increased the charge to 7 and then to 8 grains, by bulk, measured in an Ideal flask. This last charge shot at fully as great elevation as the factory black powder charge and gave equal penetration. It seemed, too, to be accurate, but the great variation in power with a trifling variation in charge showed the necessity of measuring the powder very exactly. The bullets, too, were too soft and leaded the barrel, I next tried 1 to 16 bullets with plenty of soft lubricant, and arranged an accurate charger by replacing the charger of a small powder flask by a nipple bored with a 1/2 inch hole and provided with a set screw. Into this nipple I set bits of 1/4-inch brass tube flush with the cut-off, by which means one can load to 10 grains with a variation of not over one-tenth of a grain from the normal charge.

To cut a long matter short, I find a charge of 8 to grains of green Walsrode properly loaded is fully as powerful as the factory cartridge, and what is of much more importance, fully as accurate.

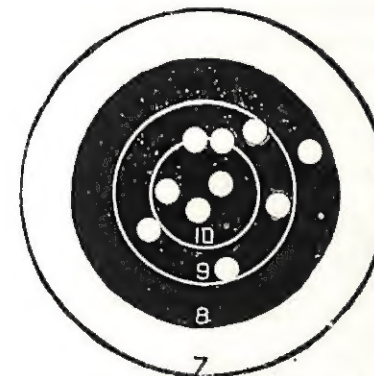
My present load is, in bulk, I think, about 8 1/2 grains, the charging tube being .19- inch in interior diameter, and 1.18-inches long. The exact weight of powder is centigram. This is loaded loose in a U. M. C. nitro shell primed with a No. 2, U. M. C. primer. The bullet is the regular 256-grain, 1 to 16, with plenty of rather soft lubricant, it is fully seated in the shell with the regular Winchester tool. The bullet fits tightly in the shell, but the crimp proper is rather light.

The penetration is fully as great as the regular cartridge gives, and in fact the ball strikes a couple of inches higher in shooting at 50 yards. The recoil is a sharp jar instead of the usual hard push, the load gives no smoke, and leaves in the barrel only a trace of soft, black residue and a few grains of incompletely burned powder. Ten or fifteen shots leave less dirt than one shot with factory ammunition.

Now, as to accuracy and regularity, I enclose a 94 made at 50 yards which shows as good grouping as one could reasonably expect. To make sure this score was not a fluke, I loaded very carefully a supply of cartridges, and last Saturday, after four sighting shots, fired fifty consecutive shots with this charge for record at the regular 50-yard range. The scores ran as follows:

92 93 91 89 89=454.

Only four shots were out of the black, each of them on a poor hold, and I found myself calling my shots with as much confidence and certainty as if shooting factory ammunition. I believe this Walsrode load to be, if carefully prepared, every bit as reliable as the regular cartridges. It shows no tendency to injure the barrel, at least with the care I ordinarily give after using black powder; does not flatten the primer any more than a full charge of FFFG Hazard, and does not show any other symptoms of undue pressure. In trying it-as I hope some of the readers of this journal will-one must measure the powder accurately, seat and crimp the bullet uniformly, and use a hard bullet to avert leading. L. BELL.



Group of shots fired at 50 yards by Dr. Louis Bell with a Smith & Wesson .44 caliber revolver. Reproduced from an 8-inch bullseye.



"Your Buck!" Broke in the voice of the boy.



## Annie Oakley in Tennessee 1897

1897. *Annie Oakley's* engagement with Buffalo Bill having ended a few weeks ago at Richmond, Va., she came to south central Tennessee anticipating a season of good hunting, and that upon the haunts of a once famous hunter, Davy Crockett, She was not disappointed in finding good hunting. All game common to this latitude is yet plentiful here, and wild turkey and small game are found in abundance. She also had the privilege of shooting here where and when she pleased. She found the best shooting within two hours' walk of Crockett's mill.

While here Miss Oakley engaged mostly in quail hunting, it being the chief sport. Quail are found in abundance, and the character of the country is such that the hunting is delightfully exciting. She came with a record of three dozen quail in one day; but while here had to compete with a hunter who has a record of six dozen in one day. Joe Eakin is one of the most successful hunters and finest shots in these parts. He and his fine pointer Nellie accompanied Miss Oakley on a number of hunts, and he was the only one of our rural hunters who excelled her in the field. However, Joe found himself severely tested, while shooting with Miss Annie, to maintain his record, As he remarked:

"Miss Annie's so quick with her gun, if you want to get a shot at a bird you must shoot mighty quick, or wait till she misses, and that may keep you waiting some time."

Miss Annie's shooting in the field excited a great deal of admiration in all who were fortunate enough to see her; but her rifle shooting was simply marvelous. She performed feats, with apparently the greatest ease, that must be seen to be believed. Some of our sure shots were very skeptical when hearing of her rifle shooting; some declaring they would wager \$50.00 that the balls or objects were not genuine. However, when she had been tested in every way possible, the skeptics became believers and wisely kept quiet concerning the \$50. While here she performed the extremely difficult feat of hitting a meadow lark flying with her Winchester .32 caliber. She hit a brick tossed into the air, broke it, and then hit one of the pieces before it reached the ground. The writer saw many a walnut and pebble torn to atoms by her rifle bullets. She leaves with us a penny through which she sent a ball from her Winchester; also a photo marked, as only a rifle ball can mark, while it was held in the hand of a friend, edge toward her, at a distance of fifteen paces. These and many other feats she easily and often performed. While here she proved herself a clever hunter and sure shot with a rifle. Until she came to these hunting grounds, which have always been famous, the writer knew her only-by reputation, which now means he never knew her before.

Although the writer has laid aside his gun, he is none the less an admirer of a master of the rifle, and the sportsman's nature within him was aroused to a high pitch by Miss Oakley's clever shooting, and he remembered with regret the time he had to part with gun and dogs.

Walter Swain Crowson, Tenn.

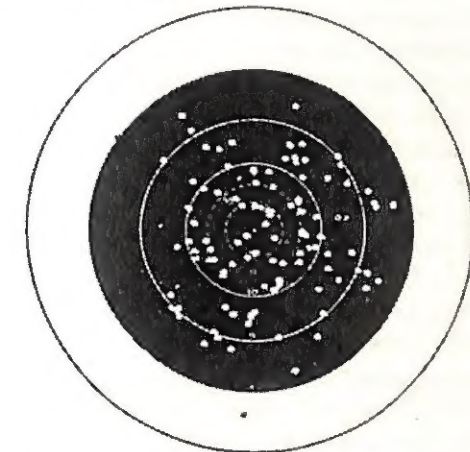


Savage Model 99 .303 caliber

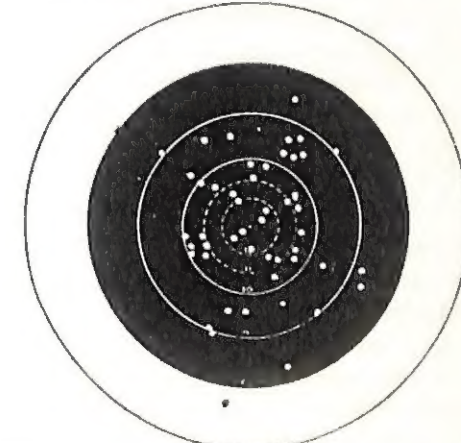
## Excellent Pistol Shooting 1896

November 26, 1896. Accompanying this are copies of targets made by the well known pistol shot, E. E. Patridge, of Boston, who shot the scores represented by these targets at the range of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, at Walnut Hill, on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25, 1896 Mr. Patridge fired 100 consecutive shots in ten-shot scores at 50 yards on the regulation pistol and revolver target; viz., the Standard American target, with one eight-inch bull's-eye, of the 100 shots but one was out of the bull's-eye, which shows remarkable skill. According to the records of this office Mr. Patridge's 100-shot total is the best on record for an amateur, the best professional records being made under the same conditions which Mr. Patridge shot, by F. E. Bennett, he scoring 936 points in 100 shots on Sept. 10, 1890, at Walnut Hill.

Mr. Patridge has acquired his skill in pistol and revolver shooting within a few years. He is past fifty years of age, but his abstemious habits and intelligent training have enabled him to develop a proficiency far beyond what most marksmen can expect to attain.



Copy of ten consecutive scarce often shots each, 100 consecutive shots at 50 yards, shot by E. E. Patridge at Walnut Hill, Mass., Nov. 25, 1897. Shot with a Smith & Wesson pistol and Union Metallic Cartridge Co. ammunition. Shot without cleaning time about one hour. Size of original bull's-eye. 8 inches in diameter. Ten-shot scores as follows:  
94 90 91 90 95 94 94 92 96 93=929.



This target represents fifty consecutive shots of the 100-shot target shown above. Ten-shot scores as follows:  
95 94 94 92 96=471.



## Walnut Hill Gleaning

*November 20, 1897.* Had the light been better at the range the conditions would have been the nearest to perfection that we have seen this year; but to the already dark day was added quite a respectable snow storm, and the combination was hard to beat.

Humphrey has purchased a .38-55 Winchester Schuetzen like Eastman's. The highest score of the day, offhand, tells the story, to which may be added an item, showing the effect of perfect bullets on a score. In casting a lot of .38-330 grain grooved bullets last week, Humphrey noted a number which were not very good, but which were lubricated and kept apart from the others. After his fine score of 90, it was found to have been made with these imperfect bullets; 40 grains powder, and no cleaning.

It will also be noted that Willard has his new barrel in good shape. The question which has been asked at Walnut Hill numberless times is: "What is the sense in paying fancy prices for barrels, when the factory barrels shoot so well?" In this week's report will be found 12 scores, ranging from 113 to 118, made by four men, all using Winchester barrels.

**J. K. Keough** has returned from his trip to the Maine woods. He fulfilled my prediction by securing two deer, wounding a caribou, which escaped, and seeing a cow moose and a calf, which were allowed to go unmolested.

In a previous letter I claimed that a score of 98 had not been made at Walnut Hill with pistol. I find I am in error in this, as Mr. Harris has exhibited two such scores for my edification.

**C. H. C.**, in commenting on pistol stocks last week, remarked that the Remington is "little used at present." It may interest him to learn that Louis Bell shoots that arm, and the same issue contains a very good 96 made with it. The 100-shot string, shot November 20, 1897 shows that besides having a comfortable stock, there is evidence of good material both before and behind the same. There will be found 43 tens and 28 nines in that string, the worst shots being 7's, of which there are 6. Do not wax wrote, brother Young, at my being amused the plaint being so much in my own line of reflections caused the smile. I presume the next improvement in the line of targets will be for the naval militiamen, who will shoot at full-sized gun-boats at 200 yards. By having any shot striking the hull count 5, no doubt a number of shooters could pull out full scores to exhibit to their admiring friends. How many times I have heard of those full scores, and expect to hear of them, as compared with really fine scores by Creedmoor count.

All military rifle scores of the Massachusetts Rifle Association are shot on the Creedmoor target, 8-inch bull's-eye. In the cup matches the shooter has the option of using either the 8 or 11-inch bull's-eye, as the score is by Standard American count. Some prefer the 8-inch. The quick-firing military revolver matches are shot on the Blunt target, using the 4 ring.

Apropos of hunting accidents, the enclosed clipping is not so bad. It is gleaned from the Boston Daily Globe, credited to Life: "Maine's gamebag for the first month of the open season this fall included 25 Moose, 18 Caribou, 16 Bears, nearly 4000 Deer, and five Hunters. Besides these, five Guides and three Hunters were shot, but got away, and five Hunters and three Guides were drowned. The open season for big game and guides lasts three months. The rest of the year Maine is an exceptionally healthy state."

P. Williams. Chelsea, Mass.

## You Must Live Straight to Shoot Straight

*December 25, 1897.* Anything tending to improve the habits of the rising generation undoubtedly should be encouraged, and granting this, the cultivation of expert riflemen among our young men is desirable, in as much as, to acquire the highest proficiency in this direction, there must be an avoidance of all dissipation and the development of qualities which are bound to greatly improve the individual. Steadiness of nerve and self control are self evident requirements, and no person can hope to become an expert marksman who does not possess these qualifications.

The marked improvement shown by the militia of this state in shooting the rifle is due to the great interest taken by the officers and men within the last few years, and scores which were at one time considered remarkable when made by isolated individuals are now frequently equaled by a whole company, while individual scores have been made this last summer which excel the performances of members of our local shooting organizations, who have cultivated offhand shooting for years.

The Massachusetts Rifle Association has always had the interests of the militia at heart and is always aiming to promote that practice which alone can produce proficiency. Besides the usual fall matches which have been put on for the members of the association, a match exclusively for the active members of the militia has been opened and is now running at the range at Walnut Hill. Twelve cups have been donated as prizes, which bear the official seal of the association, and these are now on exhibition in the show window of the John P. Lovell Arms Co., on Cornhill, Washington and Brattle streets. The match closes on Dec. 25, 1897 and members of the militia desiring to compete should enter at once, as they are obliged to shoot at least thirty scores on or before that day.

E. E. Partridge Boston, Mass.

## Military Rifle Offhand Match

*December 25, 1897.* Military Rifle Offhand match of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, now running at Walnut Hill range, closes Dec. 25. Open only to active members of M. V. M. Conditions-Distance, 200 yards; position, offhand; rounds, five; target, Standard American with 8 or 11-inch bull's-eye; entries unlimited at 10 cents each; any military rifle as issued by the state allowed; no cleaning allowed during each score; prizes to be won on the aggregate of thirty scores of five shots each; trigger pull, 6 pounds. Prizes, twelve M. R. A. seal cups.

## New England Sportsmen's Association Incorporated 1896

The New England Sportsmen's Association has complied with the legal requirements of the State of Massachusetts and become incorporated; a certificate of incorporation was issued last week. This organization has a paid up capital of \$20,000. Its object is to give public exhibitions of goods, arms, boats, camps, etc., and encourage athletic exercises and field and forest sportsmanship. Harry Dutton is president; W. L. Hill, treasurer, and the remaining directors are Edward Read, F. G. Webster, E. J. Wardwell, O. R. Dickey, Paul Butler, Butler Ames, John E. Thayer, and Charles W. Dimick. Among the stockholders are F. H. Prince, E. D. Jordan, H. E. Russell, E. V. R. Thayer, and F. B. Crowninshield.



## Walnut Gleanings 1898

*February 26, 1898.* Dr. Taylor's fine score, shot at Pittsburg, created quite a sensation at Walnut Hill, and the fortunate marksman has the best wishes of the Massachusetts Rifle Association. Although the conditions attending the performance were more favorable than those under which the record of 96 was made, yet the fact remains, that without superfine holding, such a score would be an impossibility.

**C. A. Coombs** established one new record for Walnut Hill, on Feb. 26, in making a clean score, counting but 82. The previous record was 83. The score is a curiosity in its sequence of shots, but the wind was to blame for a majority of those 8's, as although not very strong, it was constantly shifting, and letting up. It was most decidedly not a day for small calibers.

In fact there are but very few days in the course of a year at Walnut Hill when a rifle of .32 caliber or smaller has any show against a 38-55, and in a year's shooting, although occasionally a fine score may be obtained with a .32 or .25 caliber, the steadiest shooting will be found credited to the larger bore.

For the first time in the history of the M. R. A. a lady has entered the regular medal contest.

**Mrs. S. E. Briggs**, the first and only lady member, being the distinguished competitor, and having a good score to her credit.

How time flies! it is only two weeks to the New England Sportsmen's exhibit with its gallery contests. As the members of the shooting committees are also M. R. A. members, visiting sportsmen need not be afraid of Boston's proverbial chilliness.

It is interesting to note the gradual changes in the equipment of target shooters. Some years ago, when the writer first became a regular attendant at Walnut Hill, very few rifles but Maynards were seen and these of .35 or .32 caliber. A single shot Winchester was a rare article. During the past few years the tide has turned in favor of the latter, and but three Maynards are regularly shot on the range. The patched bullet with its accompaniment of cleaning for every shot is gradually being replaced by cannellured bullets of .38 caliber, shot from heavy rifles with set triggers. The palm rest has even appeared, but has not as yet met with much favor.

And yet the record for Walnut Hill, 95 by G. H. Wentworth, shortly after his famous 96, is still intact.

The writer, having shot the old Maynard for 16 years, proposes to shoot it awhile longer, never having met a rifle which suited him better.

Boston, Mass E. Williams



Winchester Schuetzen Rifle

## The M. R. A. Record Score

*December 25, 1898.* Herewith is printed a group of shots fired by E. E. Patridge, of Boston, at the Massachusetts Rifle Associations range at Walnut Hill. The score was shot Christmas day in the Revolver Reentry match, the conditions of which are as follows: Open to .44 caliber revolvers, 4 pounds trigger pull, full charges in unbroken boxes, six shots in one minute, 50 yards. Standard American target. The score as shot and spotted by the scorer follows:

8 10 10 10 10 10=58

This shooting of a score in a time limit that does not permit great deliberation, and also the use of factory loaded cartridges, preventing, as it does, the marksman from shooting his pet cartridges, goes far toward the credit of the marksman who rolls up a score like that illustrated here.

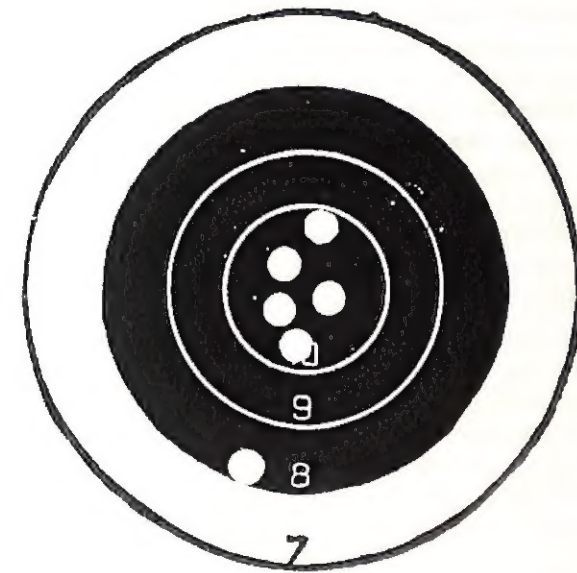
A perusal of Dr. Bell's communication, printed on page 5 of the present issue of this journal, contains much valuable information on the subject of shooting full charges within a time limit of one minute for the six shots.

It is seldom one marksman excels in more than one style of shooting, but Mr. Patridge has an enviable record as an expert rest shot at 200 yards, and has also done brilliant revolver and pistol shooting at 50 yards.

The score illustrated was shot with a Smith & Wesson .44 caliber Russian model revolver; the ammunition was Union Metallic Cartridge Co.'s make, with Smith & Wesson self-lubricating bullets.

**Charles F. Small**, who was for some time connected with the Marlin Fire Arms Co., has entered the employ of the J. Stevens Arms & Tool Co., at Chicopee Falls, Mass.

The East Syracuse Sportsmen's Club, of Syracuse N. Y., held a shoot for turkeys Christmas day.





## Walnut Hill Gleaning 1897

*August 7, 1897.* The above noted resort is rather an interesting place at present, fine scores being made under conditions which would deter many from a seeming waste of ammunition. Since Aug. 7, 1897 there has been a match on, calling for ten scores of ten shots each, no reentries, at rest, offhand, military, and with revolvers. The offhand men hung off until Nov. 20, and then got together and agreed to shoot it off together in two fifty-shot matches, beginning Nov. 27.

**Coombs** led in the first match, after an exhibition of shooting which called from J. E. Kelley the comment, "It was the finest exhibition of shooting I ever saw, How he ever did it I don't see."

It was not simply the effect of wind on the bullet, but at times the wind veered round and blew directly into the firing points, which, being entirely open, gave the shooter the full benefit of a small gale.

The writer used an extremely accurate .32-35 Maynard, and considered himself fortunate if nothing worse than a resulted from-a good hold.

December 4, the conditions were entirely changed. The wind at 11 o'clock, varying from 1 point to 0; the sky overcast, light good; almost ideal conditions for fine shooting. Unfortunately the match was not called till 1:30, and with the number present, combined with slow marking, things were moving slowly. At 2 o'clock it began to mist, and by it was impossible to see the bull's-eye through the aperture of the front sight. Two of the number did not shoot the fifth score on that account. Coombs' rifle is evidently leaded, as bullets pushed through were found to be nearly stripped of the patch.

**E. E. Patridge** slept at the clubhouse on Friday night and shot five rest scores upon rising, counting, as shot, 114, 116, 114, 115, 117. Back to the city he then went, to attend to business, returning to the range on the 2 o'clock train to devote himself to revolver shooting. One of the association rats emerged from its hole to remark that "cranks were still in existence."

One of the interesting events above mentioned was the remarkably fine shooting of J. H. Keough with a Springfield rifle, in making 87 and 92 consecutively, in the order given, the former was considered cause for congratulations, and the recipient claimed that his gun "had got into the habit of making 10's," which he proceeded to demonstrate with a score only 4 points under the record established with a fine match rifle.

The quick-firing match, for .44 caliber revolvers, has developed a useful style of shooting, and some very fine scores have been made. The 57 made by Louis Bell on Nov. 27 is the highest to date, and is a fine group, the three 9's being just above the 10 ring, Shooting a 2 1/2-pound, full charged revolver under these conditions is no child's play, there being no time to rest the arm between shots.

No., friend Pape, I see no cause for amusement. I think it is a good time to settle upon a standard size of target for all distances; otherwise reported scores are meaningless. Having read every issue of *The Rifle and Shooting and Fishing*, I am fully aware of the existence of not a few, but a goodly number, of fine shots in the west, and it would give me great pleasure to shake the hand of every mother's son of them. It was my misfortune to be in the south during Mr. Young's visit to Walnut Hill some years ago, and of course I did not have the pleasure of meeting him. Better luck next time. I assure him a good score, wherever made, is as much appreciated by the members of the Massachusetts Rifle Association as by the home club.

## Walnut Hill Gleaning

*February 5, 1897.* The Walnut Hill range received its full share of the late blizzard, but when excavated was found uninjured, the only damage being to the feelings of the range keeper, as he pondered over the amount of shoveling to be done. One of the members appeared Feb. 5, with a pair of snowshoes, which he donned at the close of the shooting, and then flopped off across country toward his home in Reading.

As it may not be generally known, I wish to state that the Walnut Hill range is in Woburn, Mass., and all mail should be so addressed, as there is another Walnut Hill in the state, and matter is frequently delayed by being sent there first. Always address care of Massachusetts Rifle Association, Woburn, Mass., for prompt delivery.

Willard spent a good part of the afternoon of Feb. tinkering a rest gun belonging to Eastman, with good results. When he first took it in hand, it would barely keep in the 8 ring, and before he finished he coaxed a score of 115 from it. Eastman's eyes have troubled him a great deal of late, making it difficult for him to use an aperture sight late in the day. He has procured a disk similar to Patridge's revolver sight; viz., a square-topped post.

Hairs may be split to any degree of fineness over the question of disks. J. H. Reough, having a disk which perfectly suited him for use on the 11-inch Standard American bull's-eye, requested A. Law to make him one which would look exactly the same on the German Ring target, 12-inch. Law, who is a remarkably fine mechanic, and whose business is that of a die maker, said the distinction was too fine for him.

I heartily agree with Aberdeen in his claim that gray squirrel's are meat for the rifle alone. I imagine the sport of shooting them with shot to be about as exciting as catching Florida catfish on a trotline. I never shot a gray squirrel with anything but a rifle, and have but one on my conscience which was hit in the body, and that was through no fault of mine, as he was on the topmost twig of a lofty chestnut, on a steep side hill, and at least 75 feet from the ground. I had to stand directly under and shoot straight up in the air, from a point where I could not see the head. F. Williams Boston, Mass.

Our association will give prizes on Feb. 22 in the different matches to all-comers, and if a sufficient number of entries are guaranteed beforehand, we intend to have a revolver team match, not less than three men to each team. Each team is to be confined exclusively to active members of some recognized club, in order to prevent the making up of a team of experts from different organizations. The conditions for these matches would be regular revolver conditions, the same as in the matches now running; viz., any revolver, not less than .38 caliber, open sights not over ten inches apart, factory ammunition, full charges in sealed boxes, distance 50 yards, six shots in a minute, trigger pull not less than 4 lbs., cleaning only between scores, each competitor to shoot five scores without unreasonable delay after starting in, but no absolute time limit except the one minute for each score, as above. If we are not advised by two or more clubs that they intend to enter the matches, they will be postponed until some other holiday, but it is our intention to bring about, as soon as convenient, a match of this kind, and a sterling silver cup will be offered as the team prize with an inexpensive souvenir for each member of the winning team. Should there be more than three entries a second prize will be provided.

I should like, if possible, on some holiday during the year, to bring about an interclub match, individual entries, on the lines of our Championship match now running, except that there should be only one entry with each weapon.

E. E. Patridge.



## A .45 Colt's Bone Smasher

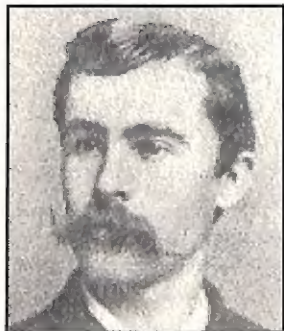
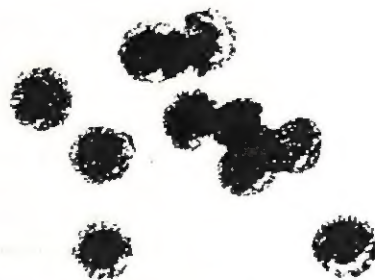
The original of the bullet illustrated here is from a mold that I cut today. Its weight is 255 grains as cast it measures .454, but I believe a .451 bullet will do better work in a .45-40 Colt's than one of larger diameter. The barrel of this arm measures .458 1/2 between grooves, and the muzzles of cylinder chambers measure .450. Why use a .454 bullet?

I would like the opinion of C. H. Taylor and others interested in heavy revolver loads as to the stopping powers of a bullet of this shape when propelled by 45 grains of FFG powder. The bearing of this bullet is shorter than that of the factory bullet, and 45 grains of powder may be used without undue compression, being necessary to seat bullet over first band.

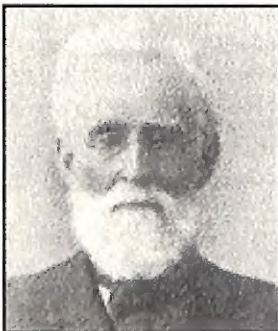


## Excellent Group Shooting

We have received a group of shots made by the well known rifleman, E. A. Leopold, of Norristown, Pa., which is so remarkably good that we reproduce it for the benefit of our readers. It was shot with a Pope barrel, Winchester action, 32 caliber, 47 grains powder, 202 grain bullet, 1-24 tin. The rifle was loaded from the muzzle and shot without cleaning. There was 1/8 inch air space, no wad over powder. The wind was light at 2 o'clock, but changeable. The rest was shifted three times on the string, showing Mr. Leopold's good judgment of the wind. The string measure is 4.88 inches. Mr. Leopold used his new lubricant on bullets.



H. L. Willard



Salem Wilder



W. M. Farrow



James N. Frye

## An Afternoon at Walnut Hill 1898

*April 7, 1898.* Since he read the first number of The Rifle the writer has looked forward to the time when he could visit the range of the Massachusetts Rifle Association at Walnut Hill. He had read so much about the various riflemen of prominence who had worked out their theories there, that the place had always seemed like a fairyland. He had read of the treacherous winds that had been to blame for the loss of much sought possibles, and he had long believed the standing excuse for bad shooting at Walnut Hill had been to swear at the wind, instead of to admit individual failings and shortcomings, or to grant that rifle or load was all wrong. He had often wondered why, when it was generally conceded that the range so far as the wind was concerned was positively the meanest one in existence to shoot over, men would attempt to do what seemed to them well nigh impassible.

All these point's and many more are clear now but as each of us must learn certain things from personal experience, it would be a waste of time and space to say more than that the M. R. A. members have good reason to abuse the wind if they think that will do any good, for in the afternoon the writer passed at the range the wind switched about every which way, and at times the flags seemed bewitched, so peculiar were their antics. The afternoon began with rain and was not cold, hence the banks of snow that lay in shady corners, and the soft ice that covered the little lakes were deceiving, but it required considerable time for warm spring air to melt the snow and ice that came with Boston's big storm of several weeks previous. The rain ceased in mid-afternoon, and the sun appeared at long intervals and for short periods of time between the driving clouds. The wind seemed very light, but in reality its strength was greater than one might suppose, and while it came from 7 o'clock most of the time to quote the clock dial the further flags indicated many puffs and eddies in its course across and down the range. The writer has shot on rifle ranges where the wind was many times stronger or more erratic, but seldom will one find a better illustration than at Walnut Hill of the best guesser coming out with top scores.

The clubhouse and range have been described so many times in these columns that little could be added, and yet, perhaps it may interest new readers to say that when one steps from the barge as the covered wagon that conveys members to and from the range and railroad station is locally called he sees first a tall flagstaff in the center of a neat lawn. Beyond is a long and commodious building, its broad side facing the north. At its east end the 50-yard firing points are located, and also cranks' corner, as the rests of those who test small bore and hunting rifles are called. The pistol, revolver, and running deer targets are east of these firing points.

A little shrub-covered hill trends toward the north from behind the 50-yard targets, then circles off toward the west, and is quite high behind the twelve 200-yard targets. Then it dips toward the north again and forms another backstop for the six 500 and 600-yard targets. Again the accommodating ridge trends north, and at a point where it circles westward again there stands a steel plate 6 x 12 feet in size, the Creedmoor 800, 900, and 1000-yard target of the days when England and America fought their last battles with the long range target rifles-battles for trophies and glory, from this description it will be understood the midrange targets are a little west of north from the clubhouse, while that of the long range is still further westward. The firing points of the longer ranges lie behind the shooting house. Westward the land is low and a bit marshy fine woodcock or snipe cover, a western man would say, and a pitying smile would immediately appear on the New Englander's face. Birches and other trees of small size grow thickly over the hills, and altogether the property of the Massachusetts Rifle Association is an ideal spot for a sportsman to visit when carried away with a desire to burn powder, or to simply while away a little time far from business cares and the rush and rattle of the streets. The writer saw the place in the most unfavorable of all seasons, but it is



easy to imagine how beautiful it is in early summer, or in autumn, when all the little oaks and birches, the evergreens and vines take on their glorious colors.

To the right of the main entrance of the house is the office of W. P. Spencer the statistical officer, who sells all tickets, records the scores, keeps the signal and telephone connections with the pits in perfect order, and many more things that add to the comfort and convenience of the shooters while they are engaged in shooting or in scrubbing the bores of their rifles.

In the members' room on the second floor, among other trophies is the famous crow that was shot by F. J. Rabbeth several years ago while he was shooting at rest. Memory fails in attempting to give the distance and other conditions, but many readers remember the circumstance, as it was related in these columns.

(250 yards)

Valuable rifles and outfits have been stolen from the clubhouse by vandals who have entered the club-room and broken lockers open. One member saved his rifles at least once by an ingenious but simple method: He put a false back into his locker, and the thieves, after breaking the lock, examined the inside, and finding it empty, as they supposed, went away, leaving some valuable rifles standing behind the false partition. But several members have a better plan than this. They had a steel box made, in appearance like an office safe, with time lock and all, it is tall enough to permit rifles to stand upright inside, but it is not deep and holds only a half dozen rifles.

Readers are familiar with the names of members, or at least with those under which their scores are published, but no person can describe with the pen the little events that transpire every shooting day in the big clubhouse, and which are full of interest to the visiting rifleman. Among those the writer calls to mind is one which shows that the rifleman's spirit remains young, although his steps may falter through great age. The last man to fire a shot that afternoon was J. N. Frye, and that occurred long after all the younger members had packed their kits and were awaiting the departure of the barge for the last train to Boston; and even then Mr. Frye was not willing to stop. During the afternoon he fired some shots at target with an old-time Smith & Wesson American model .44 caliber revolver, and secured a good group, but his score of 111 on the rest target was creditable under the conditions. He was shooting a Ballard rifle fitted with a telescope.

**C. F. G. Armstrong** was shooting a Russian model .44 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver at 20 and 50 yards. This revolver is like and yet unlike others of that model: It has a new barrel seven inches in length, a coarse, square-topped front sight and a rear sight having a deep and wide square notch. In effect the front sight is that of the ordinary military front sight cut in half vertically, the vertical side facing the shooter. Fine scores have been made with these revolvers when sighted thus, and on first thought one will probably say they should be serviceable sights for rough handling and quick shooting in the woods. Perhaps this may prove true, but the front sight would inflict a terrible injury to one who might accidentally strike any portion of his anatomy against its sharp point. It is far worse than the bead front sight in this respect, though it is by no means a delicate sight.

Judging from the hang and balance of Mr. Armstrong's revolver, the added half inch makes quite a difference, some four ounces in weight only, but in the hand it feels much heavier than one of the regular 6 1/2-inch barrels. No doubt it would be a good thing for a person to try who is troubled by shooting too high. With this revolver Mr. Armstrong scored out of a possible 60 in the Any Revolver match at 50 yards on the Standard target, firing his six shots.

**Eugene E. Patridge** has a Smith & Wesson revolver that is a departure from the model so generally used. It is a Russian model, not as it is known to-day, but one of those first brought out by the Wessons under the name Russian model. It has a saw handle which fits solidly in the hand, under the

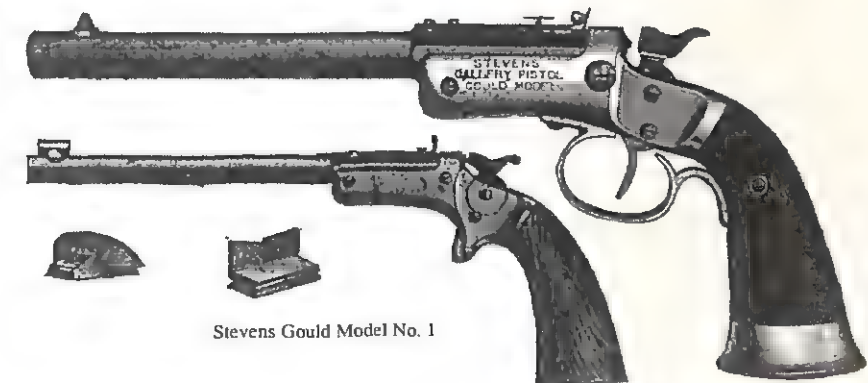
butt a swivel and ring is attached. The barrel has a long, heavy rib under half its length, and the arm is very much heavier than the modern ones. The revolver, to all appearances, is new. Mr. Patridge purchased it, sent it to the factory, had its then coat of nickel removed, and plain blue substituted. That it is very accurate may be understood when it is told that Mr. Patridge scored 54, 52, and 52 out of a possible 60 in the Any Revolver match with it. The match calls for six shots in one minute at 50 yards.

**Mr. Armstrong** also shot at 200 yards, offhand with a Stevens Ideal rifle of .25-25 caliber. His shells were primed with about 5 grains of nitro powder, and loaded with 25 grains of black powder. He used 96-grain flat point bullets. He showed the writer a score of 80 on the Standard target, made that afternoon, his rifle is one of the ordinary Ideal models, has a plain trigger, and weighs about 7 1/4 pounds.

An instance of the confidence each member reposes in his fellows was related to this scribe: One of the expert offhand shots discovered that his rifle was shooting low, and he could not account for it, as his vernier rear sight cup was held in place with a set screw. The fact remained, however, that his sight had been lowered, and refusing to entertain the suspicion that any person had tampered with the sight, he investigated the mechanism and found that the cup had been jarred down by the recoil.

Range Superintendent Kendall showed the writer a large number of bullets he had picked up in the snow banks. A great many were as perfect as they were on leaving the muzzles of the rifles from which they were fired. The imprints from the lands, the folded paper patch, and even the powder grains were plainly visible on them. But that is only half the story, for there were cannellured molded bullets with half the base gone or turned over part way, some with one band bent backward, and others with two. There was a revolver bullet that seemed to have been driven through a barrel that had been finished inside with a rattail file. Every land and every groove left its imprint on the bullet, the upset was perfect, and even some of the lubricant remains, but the marks are peculiar.

P. D. F.



Stevens Gould Model No. 1



## "The Wall"

*With Feelings*

As I stood before the  
Vietnam Memorial Wall  
I felt the need to pray, as  
My tears began to fall.  
When you see the Wall, it's a breathtaking sight  
To see the names of the  
Soldiers that went to Vietnam to fight.  
So many emotions flow through our body and our mind  
As we face the cold black granite, and the names we're trying to find.  
It's a feeling of loneliness, helplessness and despair  
We cannot understand so many gave their life there.  
I could feel their pain and hear their cries, fighting in the fields  
I heard the gunshots and helicopters, everything so real.  
Nearly 60,000 fallen names are on the Wall  
These men and women gave their all.  
For our country they gave the ultimate sacrifice  
Unappreciated and misunderstood, they gave their life.  
We honor the courage and devotion these soldiers gave  
God Bless America, the land of our Brave.  
I know one day I'll be drawn back to the Wall again  
To see and feel the names of your Father, you're Daughter or my Friend.  
Maybe you lost a loving Mom  
Or the gentle touch of your young Son.  
When I return, I'll grieve, and my silent tears will fall  
It's all I can give, to the names upon the Wall.  
The heartache of those who still wait and wonder at home  
To hear news of the MIA's and POW's who may still be all alone.  
A cry in the dark in an unknown land  
May the Lord be there to hold their hand?  
May there be peace in our world today  
Where soldiers do not fight or die, I pray.

In Memory of Our Soldiers

*By Deveda Coburn*

## The Old Man of the Mountains

New Hampshire's  
White Mountains what a beautiful place  
Where God created  
"The Old Man"  
The perfect rock face.  
He stood for our states motto  
Live free or Die  
As he over looked the valley from  
Franconia's sky.  
The Great Stone face above Profile Lake  
Stood alone  
Where a century ago Hawthorn and Webster  
Gave tribute to the forty foot face of stone.  
Webster once said men hang out their signs indicative  
Of their trade  
In the White Mountains God hung out a sign to show  
"That's where Men are made"  
May 3rd 2003---Is a sad day in New Hampshire's history  
Our Old Man has crumbled and fallen, it was his fate  
A terrible sadness across the state.  
Going through the notch will never be the same  
It was like loosing apart of each of us, we all felt the pain.  
Loosing our majestic old friend brings sadness to our hearts  
During our lift time he has always been a special part.  
The image of the "Old Man" will forever be in our thoughts  
As the sun rises in the morn  
And as the sun sets behind the mountains and the various  
Colors are gone.

*By Deveda Coburn*



## Walnut Hill Notes 1898

**February 26, 1898.** I went to Walnut Hill and occupied the cranks' corner. I used a paster to sight on and shot solely for groups. Including the usual high sighting shot from an oily barrel, the first ten shots found a circle 1 1/2- inches in diameter, nine of them a lynch circle, and six of them could be covered with a dime. The second ten contained a flyer one inch from the group, the other nine found an inch circle, and six of these, too, could be covered with a dime. The grouping here was closer and more even.

This shooting I do not advance as remarkable, except for me, for without the glass I never did half so well. The ability to make fine discrimination in holding is greatly increased by the use of a telescope, and the rifle has a chance to show what its capabilities are, I used Winchester 25-20 shells about two years old, primed with the 2 1/2 primer and loaded with 20 grains FFG Deadshot and 77-grain bullets of unknown composition pushed into the mouths, after I have found the best load for my barrel I expect to equal L's test of ten shots under a dime.

Offhand shooting seems more difficult, for the errors of holding are magnified until they appear colossal. Yet ability to sight finer must lead to ability to hold better. I am more than glad I got the telescope. It is a fine instrument in every way, My Ideal rifle is not that made by the Stevens people, but conforms to the following specifications:

Winchester single shot with 28-inch No 5, round barrel, made muzzle heavy and bored for the .25-21 straight shell, with 14-inch twist. I would put up with the despised "crescent-shaped atrocity" and a 2-pound pull. Give me a heavy barrel with a crowbar balance and I can shoot it much better, even when my heart is beating wildly, than I can a lighter arm. Of course I should have a glass mounted on it, if the Winchester Co. would only make the .25-21 !

Cambridge, Mass. Zaz.

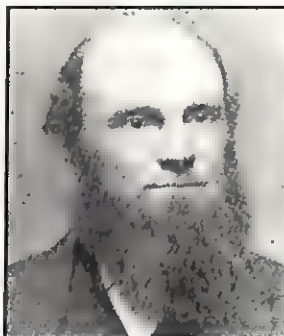
## Our Wandering Associate

Our wandering associate. F. J. Rabbeth, has been heard from, He is at present time sojourning at St. Augustine, Florida.

F. Williams Boston, Mass.



J. Busfield



N. S. Brockway



E. A. Leopold



John Buccie

## Walnut Hill Gleaning 1897

**January 15, 1897.** The Massachusetts Rifle Association started on the new year with a comfortable balance in the bank and an increase in the net gain over that of 1896.

The match committee, with commendable promptness, at once arranged for a new set of matches (*noted recently in Shooting and Fishing*), which were opened today, and which, experts being barred, transfer the seat of war to another corps of shooters.

The writer was today the victim of riflemen's luck. After getting sighted in, a score was started, and, by a streak of good holding, seven shots were fired, of which the lowest was a 7, with a prospect of finishing a good score, the next shot was held carefully, and an 8 at 12 o'clock called. Upon the return of the target a 6 at 2 o'clock was clocked and plugged. Instructions were telephoned to the pit to look for another shot, with no result, and another shot with almost a center hold fired, resulting in a 6 o'clock 2.

The barrel was examined for lead, powder measure tried, and as a last resort the vernier sight examined, when the source of the trouble was discovered, The eye-cup to the sight (one of the old Maynard rack and pinion style) had slipped down about 5 points. Being replaced, an 8 was secured and a score of 73 finished, with a 2 and in it.

That sight will never slip again. The screws are as tight as they can possibly be set, and must be loosened with a screw driver before the cup can be moved.

I desire to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the San Francisco Call, containing the match reports of the Columbia Rifle and Pistol Club, From the writing, I suspect friend Young as the guilty party; anyhow, it was very interesting reading, and I thank the sender.

**J. H. Keough** wishes me to state that all the matches of the Middlesex Rifle League were shot on the elliptical target Keough is the recipient of a good deal of good-natured chaff over his adherence to patched bullets, he and Croombs being about the only offhand men using them, When a particularly fine score, like that of Eastman's on Jan. 8, is made, he is advised to buy some greased bullets, but prefers patched.

**Dr. Louis Bell** has been experimenting for some time past with nitro powders in his .44 caliber Russian model revolver. His latest attempt was with Walsrode, and a charge of 8 grains, bulk, was found to give about the same penetration as a full charge of black, the bullets striking some inches higher than with the regular factory charge. Dr. Bell considers the above a very fine charge.

I was sorry to hear, some time since, of an accident which befell J. Busfield's Pope barrel, As I heard it, Busfield had seated a bullet and stood the rifle against his loading bench. A friend, asking permission to shoot it, was told to "go ahead and shoot all you want to," and proceeded to place a bullet in the muzzle with the starter, which he neglected to seat home, As a matter of course, the next shot ruined the barrel.

This appears to be the great drawback to this style of loading. Busfield has had the same thing happen before, at the Syracuse shoot, Under these circumstances I should imagine a Pope barrel to be an expensive luxury.

The Schuetzen stock has come to Walnut Hill to stay. A number of them are in use, Keough being the latest recruit. He claims that the use of the stock is worth 2 points to him on every score. It certainly must be an exceedingly fractious rifle which can get away from the grip to be obtained on this superb production of the gunsmith's art.

Several of the members have fitted up a gallery, and are busily engaged in getting their .22 caliber rifles into shape for the matches to be contested at the New England Sportsmen's Exhibit.



There is a prospect of apprehending the parties concerned in the burglarizing of the M. R. A. club house. Dr. Bell's Maynard has been recovered from a pawnshop, where it was sold for \$6, and two of the range telescopes have been located in similar establishments.

P. Williams Chelsea Mass., January 15, 1898

## A Remarkable Score

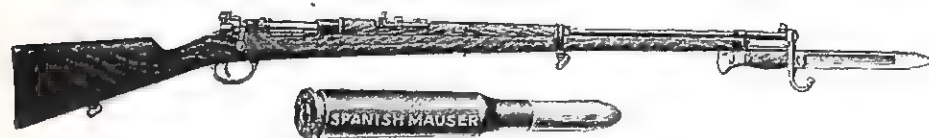
The score of 92 out of a possible 100 on the Standard American target, in offhand shooting at 200 yards, is a score to be proud of when shot with a fine target rifle. It was made at Walnut Hill, Mass., on Saturday last, by J. H. Keough, with the United States Springfield rifle as issued to the militia of the several states. This score should not be forgotten; it is deserving of high commendation and shows that the old Government rifle is a weapon of great accuracy in the hands of such an expert as Mr. Keough.

## Collecting Records

*January 13, 1898.* The Massachusetts Rifle Association is engaged in collecting the best records made in different departments of rifle, pistol, and, revolver shooting, which are to be placed on tablets and posted in conspicuous places in the shooting pavilion at Walnut Hill. This is a work that every club should do. For it will serve several purposes, all of which will benefit shooting. The records of a club of good standing would be readily accepted by the fraternity at large, and consequently the best records in different styles of shooting could be readily learned. To post a shooter's name in the clubhouse in connection with the club's best record is an honor to which most marksmen would not be indifferent; besides it would be an incentive for other members to strive to excel.

## A True Championship 1898

The much abused word, champion, is likely to have more significance, particularly in Massachusetts. That old and respected organization, the Massachusetts Rifle Association, has announced in a series of matches published in another column one called Championship match. A contestant must fire fifty shots in the following styles of shooting: At rest, offhand with match rifle, offhand with military rifle, with pistol, with any revolver, and with military revolver. This includes about every style of rifle shooting which is practical, and one who excels in such a contest would surely be a champion in the true sense of the word, and an expert all round shot.



Spanish Mauser 7 M/M

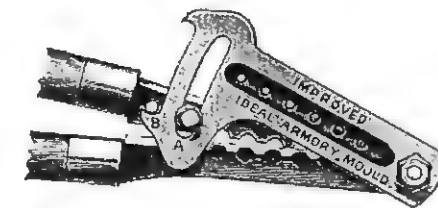
## The Meddling Fool at Walnut Hill 1898

*March 27, 1898.* I might write columns more, but will have mercy on the reader, who can find much more interesting matter. Yet I cannot close until I vent my wrath on the Meddling Fool, I went to Walnut Hill yesterday to shoot pistol. I had just had a new trigger put in, and the pull was perfect. The Meddling Fool seized the arm, and before I could say a word, pulled it off at half cock, breaking the trigger, ruining the pull, and making it feel like that of the ordinary militia rifle; that is horribly draggy, My day was spoiled. His excuse was that "he thought it was a double action !"

Zoz. Cambridge, Mass., March 27, 1898

## New Armory Mold

The Ideal Manufacturing Co., of New Haven, Conn., has made an improvement in large bullet molds, such as are used extensively by military shooters, and called by them the armory mold. Previous to the production of this mold, the square headed screw shown in the cut-off slot (see illustration) performed two functions, that of holding the cut-off plate down close to the face of the mold, and a stop, for the cut-off at both ends of the slot. The cut-off being hit continually by the thoughtless operator after it reached the screw caused it to loosen and let the plate lift up from the face of the mold in the act of cutting off the sprew, making bad work and eventually ending in breaking the screw just when it could least be spared for repairs. The possibility of this has been overcome in the new mold. Note at the letter A near the upper handle, that the cut-off is up against a separate stop pin which receives the shock, leaving the screw to perform the one function of holding the plate down, as the end of the slot on neither side of the cut-of reaches the screw, as is shown by the opening at the letter A. These are strong, heavy, well made bench molds, cut for six of the largest military and sporting bullets. Further information relating to this and other goods of a like nature may be had from the manufacturers, who will be pleased to send a copy of their catalogue and handbook to any who may write for them.



## Poem of 1897 The Rhythm of a Poet's Verse

Shoot for the ten on your target there.  
Think not of others or try to compare,  
Just shoot and shoot on your target there.  
You shoot for ten and we'll shoot for one;  
We know our average when our scare is done.  
Shoot, brothers, shoot, shoot with care.



## Walnut Hill Gleaning 1898

*May 5, 1898.* It was hoped that the Smith & Wesson Revolver Club would send a team to Walnut Hill on Patriots' day, but a letter to that effect from E. E. Partridge received an answer to the effect that it was impossible. Considerable disappointment was felt by the members at this reply, for the members of the Smith & Wesson club, being gentlemen and expert shots as well, are well liked by the M. R. A., and will most assuredly receive a hearty welcome whenever they favor us with a visit.

Extensive alterations are projected for the pistol accommodations at the 50-yard targets. Another target will be added making the number eight, and the firing point will be partitioned off into four spaces, two targets to each, similar to the rifle. A scorer will be provided for each space, when very busy, and at other times two scores will be sufficient. No person will be allowed at the firing point except shooters, scores, and officers of the M. R. A. For the accommodation of spectators, a window occupying the whole width of the building will be provided, so that the shooting may be watched without interfering with the shooters. Probably every pistol shooting member, the writer included, has had one, or more scores spoiled by well meaning but unthinking friends, and this alteration will prevent any such occurrence for the future.

**Humphrey** shot King's Semi-Smokeless powder April 15, and expresses himself as delighted with the result. He showed the writer some fine groups which were shot with it at 200 yards, 325-grain lubricated bullet, 1 to 40. A strong wind was blowing during the shooting, and, no attempt being made to follow the wind, the group was much elongated, laterally; the elevation was fine, though.

**Pratt** has taken a great spurt lately, and is rapidly advancing toward the expert class. A year ago 80 was an exceptionally good score for him; now he turns up his nose at anything under 84.

**Coombs, Dale, Keough, and Humphrey** are putting their time into the reentry match on the German ring target, calling for the best twenty-five scores, Jan. 15 to June 18. Some fine scores have been put up by the latter three, who have kept at it pretty steadily, and it is safe to say that the one winning first prize will have to do some fine work.

Early in the present year new Springfield rifles were issued to the M. V. M., with the new combined bayonet and wiping rod. These new rifles all shoot high, so much so that in some cases it was impossible to get the rear sight low enough for 200 yard work.

The square front sight described by my friend Fraser in last week's issue is an ugly thing to get afoul of, as the writer knows by sad experience. But it shoots well; try it.

A visitor to the range a short while ago excitedly informed the writer that he had seen a chipmunk near the pistol targets. He was astounded when informed that they had been seen during a contest playing around in front of the targets; that a pair of robins reared a brood within 10 feet of target No. 7; that a rabbit one day hopped down to the firing point where Humphrey was shooting, and sitting up, inspected the operation; and that a flock of bob-white has inhabited the range for several years unmolested. Never having been bothered, the birds have become very tame and pay no attention to the reports of the fire arms. It is a common thing to see field sparrows perched upon the pistol butts during the shooting.

P. Williams.

## Offhand Shooting at 200 yards 1898

*May 5, 1898.* I have been an interested reader of *Shooting and Fishing* from the time it was known as *The Rifle*, and have derived much pleasure and profit from it. Those articles which have been of the most real benefit to me have been in relation to the arms and various methods of loading in use by the riflemen who practice offhand rifle shooting at 200 yards. Hence the following may be of interest to some brother rifle shots:

In 1890, when I paid my first visit to Walnut Hill, my outfit included a No. 16 Maynard, chambered for the .32-40 Remington shell. When purchasing it I was strongly advised by the owner not to try to make my own bullets, as they could not be made as well by hand as by the factories. A mold was immediately purchased, and I certainly have never regretted it, in making a good score there is always an added satisfaction in knowing that one has made the bullets, as well as feeling in dependent of the manufacturers. This Remington shell held 47 grains, so I had a steel shell made to hold 30 grains. With a 165-grain patched bullet this shot very well and gave fair results with grooved bullets.

One day G. H. Wentworth came to Walnut Hill with his heavy .32-35 Maynard, with full round barrel, weight close to ten pounds. This seemed to hold much more steadily than mine, and he proceeded to demonstrate its good qualities by making two consecutive scores of 90 and 95, I immediately ordered a similar barrel, and found it extremely accurate. The charge that gave the best results was 35 grains No. 5 Rifle Cartridge powder and a 180-grain patched bullet, and in the time it was in use scores were made counting from 92 down. With the 153-grain lubricated bullet the results were fair, but at times it would foul up and shoot wildly. When the .32-30 Ideal was produced I obtained a barrel with a 15-inch twist and got excellent results with a 180-grain grooved bullet, but it required careful handling and frequent breathing in the barrel to obtain regular shooting.

Often I would bring out a .25-20-98 barrel, special 12-inch twist, and made excellent scores on calm days, but in a strong wind it was simply an aggravation to try for a good series of shots at 200 yards.

*In January, 1896.* The shooting house at Walnut Hill was entered, and among the rifles stolen was my Maynard and four barrels. There was no clew to the thieves, so I had to get a new outfit.

Two Winchesters were ordered, a .32-40, 9 3/4 pounds, and a .38-55, 12 3/4 pounds, and I made up my mind to find a combination that would shoot accurately without cleaning. The .32-40 was ordered with a 32-inch barrel, and so I had two inches cut off and made into a false muzzle. The bullets that were loaded from the muzzle weighed 185 grains, the body of the bullet made of a size to just rest on the lands, and the rear band the full size of the grooves. temper 1 to 40. By using 5 grains of Schultze and 43 grains FG Hazard fine results were secured, a series of six shots at rest cutting the 25 ring of the German ring target. But still the labor of pushing the bullet down from the muzzle seemed too much like the old method of cleaning with patched bullets.

Shooting alternate scores in a wind the superiority of the .38-322 was at once apparent, and after due consideration I disposed of the .32 and ordered a Schuetzen stock for the .38, adding double set triggers, palm rest etc. In the meantime my friend C. H. Eastman had been getting fine results from his .38 Winchester, and I adopted his charge of 40 grains FG-Hazard, 5 grains of Schultze, and the Ideal 322-grain bullet shot from the shell. I shortened the barrel to 27 inch to improve the balance of the rifle, and was what in doubt as to the results, but a score of 90, offhand, at the first trial restored confidence. For the past five months this rifle has given complete satisfaction, and today I would not go back to the old method of scrubbing or even loading from the muzzle under any consideration. A perusal of the scores made by C. H. Eastman and J. E. Kelley (R. L. Dale) since last summer, using this same charge, should convince one that it is not necessary to clean to obtain accurate, regular results for a long series of shots.



For some time past I have been interested in the results obtained with King's Semi-Smokeless, so April 11 found me at Walnut Hill with a pound can of the FG brand. Not being a regular shooting day, there were no wind flags, so shot for group only. Running up a 200-yard Standard target, I first decided to test some new .38 bullets. These were cast in an Ideal mold, but with the rear cannelure reamed out, so as to leave a broad band at the base.

The charge was 5 grains Schultze, 40 grains FG Hazard, and this bullet weighing 325 grains, 1 part tin to 40 of lead. The rifle has aperture front and Soule rear sight, with spirit level in rear barrel slot, and the sights were moved after each ten shots to give separate groups. Rifle rested 6 inches from muzzle, bench rest, and the shots spotted through a telescope by a regular association scorer. The wind, was from 4 to 8 o'clock and varied from 8 to 16 inches. Fifty shots were fired rapidly and it was at once apparent that the elevations were holding finely, though a puff of wind would occasionally drive a bullet out from 2 to 3 inches. The last ten shots with the Standard. rest bull struck in count:

10 10 10 11 11 12 12 12 12 12 = 112.

A parallelogram  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches high by  $1\frac{15}{16}$  broad touches or includes them. After getting these results I hardly expected to be as well satisfied with the Semi-Smokeless, but the opportunity was a good one, so I started in without cleaning or changing the elevation, loading with 40 grains, and the bullet on powder, projecting from shell as with previous load. Slightly less recoil and much less smoke were at once apparent, and the average elevation of the shots was just the same as the black and nitro charge. Sixty shots were fired with the Semi-Smokeless in 1 hour and 15 minutes, to make the test as severe as possible, not even blowing in barrel to moisten powder. The wind was increasing. The best group of ten shots cuts or is included in a parallelogram  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches high by  $4\frac{7}{8}$  wide. The average elevation of the sixty shots was fully as good as the previous fifty, though the lateral deviation was increased by the stronger wind. On looking through the barrel it was apparently in the same condition as when black and nitro were used.

I now left the rifle for an hour to give the residue a chance to harden and then fired five shots, the wind in the meantime having completely died away. Result, five shots that will cut the Standard 12 ring.

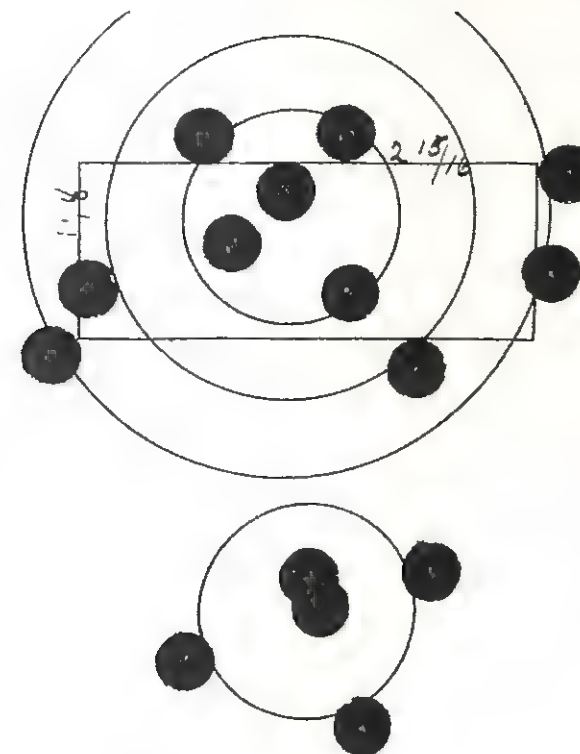
The advantages of the King's Semi-Smokeless over straight black seem to be less smoke and recoil and much greater cleanliness; while, as compared with black powder and nitro priming, one is relieved of the bother of measuring and loading the charge of nitro.

This Winchester barrel is in every way the same as those used by our expert rest shots with patched bullets, and these results would seem to prove that special rifling, recutting, etc., are not necessary to obtain the best results without cleaning.

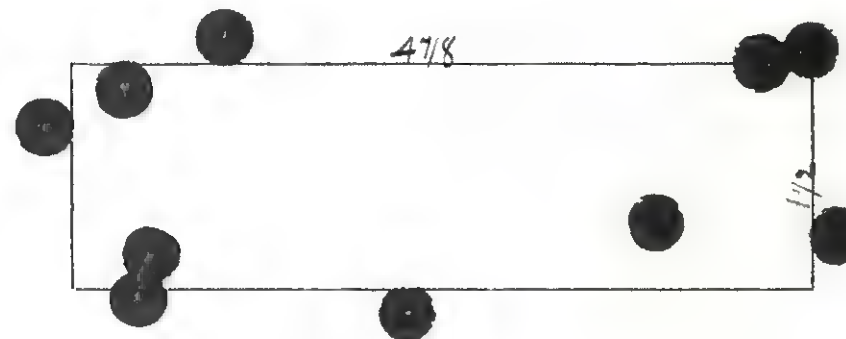
Boston John Taylor Humphrey



Colt Lightning Rifle



Upper Group-Ten shots at 200 yards rest, with 5 grains Schnltze, 40 grains Hazard FG powder and 325-grain bullets, 1 to 40; score 112. Lower Group Same distance and position, five consecutive shots after firing fifty-five shots with-out cleaning, 40 grains King's Semi-Smokeless FG powder and 325-grain bullets. Reproduced exact size in each case.

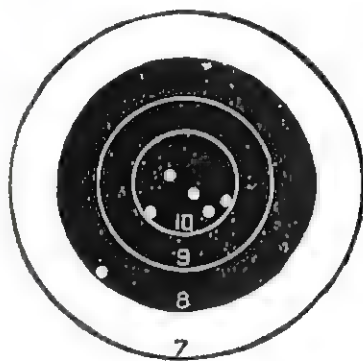


Ten consecutive shots In a strong wind at 200 yards, rest, using 40 grains King's Semi-Smokeless FG powder and 325-grain 1 to 40 bullets. Reproduced exact size.



## Mr. Patridge's Second Fifty~Eight

**June 3, 1898.** With this we publish a group of shots made by Eugene E. Patridge, of Boston, in the Massachusetts Rifle Associations Revolver Reentry match, June 3, 1898. He used a Russian model .44 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver and Union Metallic smokeless cartridges. The six shots were fired in a time limit of one minute, at 50 yards. The group was reproduced from an 8-inch bull's-eye. This ties Mr. Patridge's best score in this match. Last December he recorded a score containing an 8 and five 10's and J. H. Keough attained the same total recently, but his score contained two 9's and four 10's. It is generally believed by the best revolver shots that pearl stocks are not the best obtainable for target shooting, by reason of their smoothness of surface, but Mr. Patridge's revolver was fitted with pearl stocks at the time he fired the last score of 58. Being pressed for time, he did not replace the pearl stocks with more practical wooden ones, but fired the score, and the picture will give an idea of the placing of the shots. Perhaps this is only another case of the training one undergoes in shooting any firearm at the target. If an expert revolver shot begins shooting a rifle for the first time, or viceversa, he is almost certain to become expert with the new arm in a short time.



## A New Record 1898

**June 30, 1898.** C. H. Taylor, the well known pistol expert of the Harvard Rifle and Pistol Club, has distinguished himself by recording a perfect ten-shot score on the Standard American target at 50 yards with a single shot pistol. This is the first perfect ten-shot score made on this target with a pistol, although the target has been in constant use since 1886, during which time two scores of 99 out of a possible 100 have been made. Strange though it may seem, a perfect score was made on the same target at the same distance on July, 1888, with a full charged .44 caliber revolver out of doors, the score being shot by Sergt. W. C. Johnston, Jr., at the range of the Lynn, Mass., Rifle Club.

The scores of 99 out of 100 with pistol, which held the record so long, are credited to E. J. Darlington, July 5, 1890, at Wilmington, Del., and H. S. Harris, Dec. 31, 1890, at Walnut Hill, Mass.

Mr. Taylor's perfect score of 100 was shot in the allcomers' match of his club at Cambridge, Mass., the membership of the club being mainly made up of students of Harvard University, the range is indoors, and consequently many shooters will insist upon the score being classed as an indoor record. The score under any conditions is deserving of recognition and high commendation, for such work requires skill of the highest order.

## Walnut Hill Gleaning 1897

**May 14, 1897.** The absence of several of our most enthusiastic members, due to the present unpleasantness, is very noticeable. Dr. Louis Bell is in charge of the mining operations in Boston harbor, as an expert electrical engineer; Dr. C. C. Foster is busily engaged in examining the militia; Anderton and Keough are with their respective companies, and in place of five targets in full swing, accommodating twenty-five to thirty or more of the militia trying for qualification, on Saturday, May 14, not a member of the M. V. M. put in an appearance.

Early in the week a challenge was received by Mr. Harris from the Harvard Pistol and Revolver Club, inviting a team from the Massachusetts Rifle Association to a three-man team contest on May 14. The challenge was accepted and the match shot, the result being given in another column. W. F. Spencer knew nothing of the match until his arrival at the range at 12:30, when he was told he was expected to shoot. He tried for a string of fifty consecutive bull's-eyes on May 7, and got along swimmingly until the last shot, which, by a careless hold, was a 7. However, forty-nine consecutive 8-inch bulls is not a bad record to look back to.

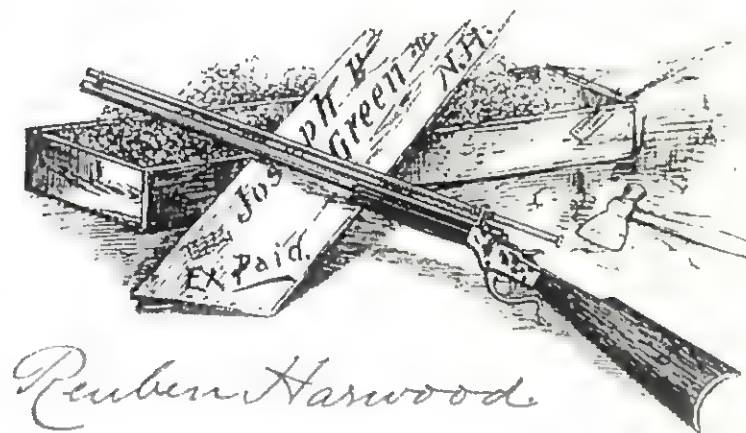
On the same day Mr. Chase had a possible 119 on the tenth shot, but an erratic puff of wind gave him a 9, it was simply impossible to judge the wind during that afternoon. Frequently the wind would shift from 4 to 8 o'clock, or vice versa, while the rifle was at the shoulder, and the results were heart breaking.

**E. E. Patridge** is drawing up specifications for a new Winchester schuetzen rifle, with which he intends entering the offhand ranks.

**H. L. Willard** was seen shooting an offhand rifle on May 14, it is to be hoped he has left the rest corner for good.

**C. B. Pratt** seems to have struck his gait, and it is a good one, too. Rarely a shooting day passes without an 85 or better added to his credit.

Boston, Mass P. Williams.



Reuben Harwood 1897



## Walnut Hill Gleaning 1897

*April 3, 1897.* Compared with former years, the present is a very quiet one at Walnut Hill, The departure of the various regiments for the military camps would alone have caused this, but several of our best shots have accompanied them, and their faces are missed.

Two of our members have reappeared among us Prof. C. J. Bell and F. J. Rabbeth. Prof. Bell has equipped himself with a Winchester schuetzen rifle, as has also E. E. Patridge, who promises to invade the offhand ranks.

**H. S. Harris** at present appears more devoted to the wheel than the range, but occasionally drops in for a few hours, On fine Saturdays he is not supposed to be visible at Walnut Hill, but may be seen on some good road in company with Mrs. Harris, biking along as serenely as if he had never seen a pistol.

Some three weeks ago, during the shooting, the call of bobwhite was frequently heard from the meadows at the immediate left of the 200 yard ranges, and finally several quail were seen to fly near the wind flags.

A number of the members expect to attend the Glendale shoot. Probably Coombs, Kelley, Humphrey, Busfield and Tuck will be the elect.

The effect of the present war on the general populace is curious. Hundreds who never apparently knew that gun stores existed in the city of Boston may be seen gathered in front of the windows of the J. P. Lovell Arms Co. and Win. Read & Sons, intensely interested in the small caliber rifles, equipment, etc., displayed therein. The writer has seldom passed these stores without seeing from five to a dozen at each place.

Several of the new Ideal No. 2 Universal flasks have appeared at the range, and are giving good satisfaction, it is impossible to forget the nitro with this flask, but to secure the best results users should not forget to give the handle a couple of sharp raps, both in filling and discharging the measure; the first to make sure of accurate filling, and the second to obviate the packing of the powder in the orifice and the consequent retention of a portion of the charge, which will sometimes happen when using FG powder and the small aperture.

Boston, Mass. P. Williams

## Want of Uniformity in Rifle Targets 1898

*August 25, 1898.* Our Walnut Hill correspondent calls the attention of riflemen to the want of uniformity in rifle targets of the same name when published by different concerns. This is a fault which has long existed and has frequently been referred to in these columns. The variations are perhaps small, but in these days, when rifles, ammunition, and skill are brought to such a high degree of perfection, slight variations might make a big difference. Expert riflemen know well the difference between a score of 119 and 120 in ten shots on the Standard American rest target, or the difference between 74 and 75 in a three-shot score on the so-called German ring target. It is possible by the difference in the measurements of the rings in targets of the same name, but printed by different persons; to give one person a score higher in count than that of another person who has shot one of equal or even superior merit.

A long time ago we learned that some rifle ranges in this country were short of the distance claimed, and that the targets varied in measurement as stated in the foregoing paragraph. In rifle and pistol galleries this is common. This information was not pleasing to us, for it made the laborious work of compiling the records of American rifle, revolver, and pistol shooting of little or no value, and about two years' hard work was cast aside and work in that line relinquished. All this has made it apparent that the work of one club, or of individuals of different clubs, cannot be compared with that of another unless the targets be by actual string measurement or on targets printed from the same block and agreeing in measurement. We think this discrepancy is not likely to be remedied unless a national rifle association be formed and a part of its work being to measure every rifle range and supply all targets used by riflemen.

## Walnut Hill Gleaning 1898

*September 17, 1898.* Fine scores are now being made at rest with such frequency as to become uninteresting, But two weeks ago Willard's third 120 was recorded, and now comes Patridge with two consecutive 119's, followed closely by Chase with two 118's, so the fact is almost lost sight of that three years ago the record of 119 seemed almost unapproachable. On Aug. 28 of last year Chase made a score of 119, which was beaten five minutes afterward by Willard with a perfect score. Almost exactly a year after Sept. 3 Willard repeated his performance, and two weeks later was followed by a whole handful of fine scores, among which must not be overlooked the 113 of Mrs. Briggs.

Some two weeks ago I was shown a couple of groups shot by H. N. Pope with a .28 caliber rifle at 200 yards. machine rest. Both were wonderfully fine ten-shot groups, and the smaller might easily have been counted a perfect score on the Standard rest target. The string measurements were slightly over 5 and 4 1/2 inches respectively.

The caution to markers contained in last week's New York Rifle Notes may well be pondered upon by the shooters and employee of more than one rifle club, as was illustrated by an unfortunate occurrence which took place at Walnut Hill on Sept. 17. J. E. Kelley was shooting in fine form, and, after getting sighted in, commenced a score on the Standard target, spotting each shot in one of the books presented by the U. S. Cartridge Co, at the sportsmen's show last March. By a singular combination of errors he was denied the record-breaking score of his shooting career.

The first column in the book is for the distance in yards, but Kelley's first shot was placed in this space a 10. Then followed 9, 10, 10, 9, 9, 9, 10, 9, -, with a blank space for one more shot. Singularly the scorer had neglected to score the fifth 9, and the shooting ticket also called for one more shot, which was fired, and a resulted; the total of the ticket being 92. Upon examining his book later Mr. Kelley found he had fired eleven shots, and that the score should have been 94, He then claimed the latter score, but his claim was not allowed.

On Labor day Walnut Hill was favored by a visit from an old member of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, whose name, well known to all riflemen, has been seen but seldom of late O. M. Jewell, He brought with him a .22 caliber Maynard rifle, chambered for the long-rifle cartridge. The weather conditions permitted the little cartridge to do good work, and Mr. Jewell was thereby encouraged to pay a second visit with the same arm September 17, 1898. The day's work resulted in five scores between 200 and 211 and several minor scores, thereby corroborating the opinion of Dr. A. A. Stillman on the subject of the tiny bore.

At one time during the afternoon it seemed as if 120's would be easy to make, owing to the total absence of wind, The rest men were holding on center; something unusual. Coombs arrived at about 5 o'clock, and had just about time to finish one score. The writer heard him remark of one shot, that "it looked good enough to eat." Sure enough, it resulted in a flag. He had the target all to himself, and the next shot drove the plug through for another flag.

The writer, unfortunately, spent the early part of the day in overhauling Mother Earth; that is, digging in the garden in preparation for fall bulbs, resulting in a pair of artistically blistered hands and a total inability to hold on the bull's-eye. An attempt was made to get some fun out of a .25-20 barrel which has been lying idle for over a year, but nothing resulted other than a procession of 6's, 7's, and 8's, the former predominating. Moral: If you have any idea of shooting, don't attempt to do anything else requiring any physical effort previous to the shooting.

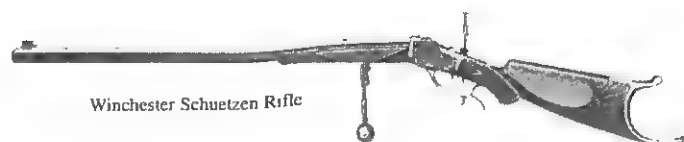
W. F. Spencer



## Roosevelt's Rough Riders of 1898

At Camp Wikoff the mustering out of the regiment of rough riders that has been so prominently before the attention of the public since the beginning of the war with Spain, was started Tuesday afternoon of last week, and before the sun had set, many members of that famous organization had begun the journey that was to scatter the men all over the union; but before the mustering out began a committee of officers asked Col. Theodore Roosevelt to meet the men in the open, as they had something to say to him before they parted. The colonel stepped from his tent to find his men drawn up in a hollow square, and these in turn were surrounded by hundreds of other soldiers and visitors. Then Trooper Murphy, in a few words, told his colonel in what esteem the men held their commander, who had done everything in his power for them while they had been together; and then the private uncovered a bronze statuette and presented it to Col. Roosevelt, it was Frederic Remington's famous masterpiece, "The Bronco Buster," and it is safe to say that as a memento of the occasion, nothing which could have been selected would have found so much favor in the heart of the Colonel. He found it difficult to utter a word at first, but this he said, in part:

"I need not say to my officers in what a deep regard I hold them; they will not mind me saying that just a little bit closer come the men, I have never tried to coddle you, and have never hesitated to call upon you to spend your best blood like water. I am proud of this regiment beyond measure. I am proud of it because it is a typical American regiment. The foundation of the regiment was the cow puncher, and we have got him here in bronze. No gift could have been so appropriate as this, the men of the west and southwest horsemen, riflemen, and herders of cattle have been the backbone of this regiment, which demonstrates that Uncle Sam has another reserve of fighting men to call upon if the necessity arises. The west stands ready to give tens of thousands of men like you, and we are only samples of the fighters the west can put forth. Besides the cow puncher, this regiment contained men from every section of the country, every state in the union, and because of that we feel proud of it. It is primarily an American regiment, and it is American because it is composed of all the races which have made America their country by adoption and those who have claimed it as their country by inheritance. It gives me extreme pleasure to look around among you and see men of every occupation, men of means and men who work with their hands for a livelihood, and at the same time know that I have you for friends. You are men of widely different pursuits, yet you stand here side by side, you fought shoulder to shoulder. No man asked quarter for himself, and each one went in to show that he was as good as his neighbor. This is the American spirit, I was bound that no other regiment should get any nearer to the Spanish lines than you got, and I do not think any did." Then as the men filed by him, Col. Roosevelt shook their hands, calling each one by name and saying some words of parting that will long be remembered by the men.



Winchester Schuetzen Rifle

## Walnut Hill Gleaning 1898

*October 1, 1898.* Just to show that he was not disheartened by his hard luck on Sept. 17, J. E. Kelley put up another fine score on Oct. 1; a perfect score by Creedmoor count and aggregating 92 on the Standard target. I was also given to understand that in the previously cited case no claim was put in for the score, but the facts were simply laid before the executive committee. Mr. Rabbeth was at the range on Oct. 1 with a barrel which has received the gun bore treatment. Quite a number of shots were fired, but I was unable to learn Mr. Rabbeth's opinion of the process, as he left on an early train before I could round him up. Mr. Rabbeth is in quite poor health just at present, having for some time been laid up with a severe attack of rheumatism, followed by gastric fever.

Another veteran rifleman was present at Walnut Hill in the person of Salem Wilder, who, in answer to a question as to his health, remarked that he was feeling well for a man seventy-five years and eight months old. Certainly he looked even better than appeared to be the case some five years ago, when he was a regular competitor at the range.

The young men mentioned in the last issue of Shooting and Fishing as missing were near neighbors of the writer, and their bodies were recovered and interred before the said copy was received. The former, James S. McNeisch, was employed by Patridge & Mactillar, of which firm E. E. Patridge is the senior member. They were warned by all at the lake to desist from venturing out; even the guides would not go, nor would a steam launch risk it. The double interment was made at Woodlawn on Wednesday of last week, services being performed at Chelsea, Mass.

For the information of G. E. C., Montgomery, Ala., who queried last week, I have Ascertained that the three 120's were made by Willard with No. 4 barrels, with the same accessories, as answered by the editor, in each case. Set triggers and palm rests are not allowed in the medal matches at Walnut Hill, but may be used in the matches on the ring target. The former are generally used, the rifles of Kelley, Coombs, Humphrey, Busfield, Eastman, Keough, Patridge, Pratt, and several others being fitted with them. Palm rests do not seem to be received as cordially, but few using them. Patridge has his Winchester .38-55 schuetzen fitted with a short low power telescope and palm rest. More power to him.

A familiar form in unfamiliar dress wandered up the driveway on Oct. 8, and when the military slouch hat was removed the wearer was found to be Tom Anderton, who, with the balance of the First Massachusetts Volunteer Artillery, is off on a thirty days' furlough preparatory to being mustered out. Tom is as hard as nails, owing to the prescription of pick and shovel freely administered to the various batteries along the shore. Raking out his pistol from the safe, a few scores were shot by him, which proved that he is still with the head men of his class. Fool stories continue to be published. A daily paper states that "a company of female rough riders has been formed (locality forgotten), each of whom can hit a silver dollar at 100 yards, on the run." Just what we are expected to believe is doubtful, but what a lot of warm babies they must be! Even Mrs. Briggs' fine score of 116 made last week would be but child's play for them. They would prefer to shoot "on the run." W. F. Spencer. Boston, Mass.



S & W  
Model No 1.



**September 8, 1898.** "In the various editions of the Ideal Handbook we have seen that in patching bullets at the factory the girls become so expert that some of them patch over 12,000 in a day. The word "some" may indicate that it takes several girls to accomplish this feat, which would seem to be the case, as one girl working ten hours would be obliged to patch twenty bullets per minute—one every three seconds to patch 12,000 without mentioning any "over." Further comment seems unnecessary."

(see pages 41 and 42).

The above is quoted from Walnut Hill Gleanings by W. F. Spencer in *Shooting and Fishing of August 25, 1898*. All of which goes to show that brother Spencer is a close and critical reader of the Ideal Handbook, which fact is highly pleasing to us, for that is just what we desire. We, however, must admit that the closing sentence, "Further comment seems unnecessary" has a little skeptical, sarcastic slur that is not pleasing. It seems to clinch a proved fact in the mind of our good brother that the statement in the handbook is either a typographical error that has escaped our notice through "various editions," or that the statement, to say the least, is gross exaggeration. Errors will occasionally creep into books or catalogues, however careful the writers or printers of them may be, and when such are pointed out to us by the brethren, we fully appreciate their kindness and have the errors corrected in the next issue, for it is our aim and desire to have no statement or information in the Ideal Handbook that is not truthful. We intend to keep it free from exaggeration and give only simple plain facts as we learn them. The information we have collected and given to the shooters has been fully appreciated by them in general, as many letters from them testify, all of which is very gratifying to us, it is our aim to make the Ideal Handbook a book of reference for shooters that can be depended upon, and if it is found to be full of exaggerations and untruths, its value as a reference book is nil.

Now, we do not think for a moment that our good brother, W. F. Spencer, intended to injure the reputation of the Ideal Handbook. As a practical man that we all know him to be relating to arms, ammunition, etc. He has undoubtedly patched many bullets in his day, and he may possibly consider himself an expert at it, and he knows very well that he himself cannot come anywhere near covering 12,000 bullets per-day with paper patches; and, therefore, as it seems incredible to him, he simply states that it is an impossibility, and we have no doubt about it being such for him; yet, nevertheless the statement in the Ideal Handbook No. 10 is in our opinion a truth, which may be easily verified by the books of the Winchester Repeating Arms Co., of this city. If we are correctly informed, the best record made in that factory stands to the credit of Miss Eva Ashdown, who received the sum of \$3.80 as the highest payment for one day of ten hours patching .45 Martini-Henry bullets, during the time of the Turkish contract. Price paid, 30 cents per thousand, which will sum up to the number of 12,666. This quantity is three times the amount regularly produced by the hands, but as stated in the handbook, the said production was the work of an expert, and it really seems incredible to an outsider, bitt facts are stubborn things and we have reason to believe that this is a fact. One hundred miles on the bicycle in twenty-four hours is far above the average performance by those who ride ordinarily, yet we know there are experts who can do three times that distance.

While brother W. F. Spencer may have patched a few bullets, we would say that the Winchester Company, during the Turkish contract patched millions of bullets, and the work was all done by the deft fingers of girls. So it might be expected that "some of them become expert," and the above is the record of the most expert one among them.

**August 20, 1898.** The attendance at the range continues at low water mark, and probably will do so until fall, when the fortunate ones return from their vacations.

**J. E. Kelley** has returned to the fold in fine condition physically, but in poor form for fine work at the butts, as during his vacation he was forever shooting a .22 caliber Maynard with a three-pound pull, which broke him all up for work with his heavy .38-55 Winchester having a set lock.

The shooting members of the Massachusetts Rifle Association desire right here to register a most emphatic kick over the glaring inaccuracies to be found in the full-sized German ring target issued by Geo. Schlicht. The measurements of the separate Bull's-eyes are correct, but those of the target which includes the 9 ring are as follows:

Diameter.	Correct Size.	Actual Size.
25 ring	1.5	1.32
24"	3.0	2.95
23"	4.5	4.4
22"	6.0	5.9
21"	7.5	7.5
20"	9.0	8.95
19"	10.5	10.7
18"	12.0	12.0

It will be seen that but few of the diameters are correct, and it is manifest to the most casual observer that a shooter who uses a new target is at a disadvantage when contesting a match with a shooter on another target, who perhaps has had a new bull's-eye put on his target; he is also further handicapped in that the lines on the full sized target are unnecessarily wide, giving the bull's-eye a gray appearance, while on the other they are quite fine and it looms up distinct and black.

These things handicap a shooter more than the majority of persons would suppose, and an illustration of this was seen on Aug. 20. The markers at the pit got out of 200-yard target indicators, and for a time used some which are about four times the size, made for 500-yard use. There was an instant complaint from every shooter, and personally the writer found that when the preceding shooter had captured a bull's-eye it was almost impossible to see the bull through the aperture front sight, while, if the shot were out of the black, no difficulty was found. After considerable argument over the telephone, the markers were induced to cut the indicators down to the proper size, and all was serene again.



## To Our Brave Soldiers

A small tribute to all the Brave Soldiers, that left their  
 Families and loved ones behind  
 To fight for the freedom of all mankind.  
 Some have been wounded and some lost their life  
 Some we'll never find, leaving loved ones in strife.  
 They all fight for the RED WHITE and BLUE  
 To keep the country safe for me and you.  
 To all the brave soldiers from all the battles  
 That have taken place  
 We salute one and all from the safety of our space.  
 We can come and go as we please  
 And journey over many seas.  
 There are no walls, in our land  
 Because brave soldiers, took a stand  
 Because these men fought and some died  
 We have no need to run and hide.  
 God has blessed us with his grace  
 Fear and bondage have no place.  
 Do we ever stop to truly give thanks?  
 For those that fought within the ranks.  
 Do we realize where we would be?  
 If the man and women in uniform had not won our liberty.  
 Next time you look at "OLD GLORY"  
 Tell others of its great story.  
 Of all the men and woman who fought and some who died  
 For us, our freedom was supplied.  
 The passing of a soldier sometimes goes unnoticed and unsung  
 Some have died at an old age some are very young.  
 They have given the greatest contribution,  
 For the welfare of our land  
 They need praise and we should be proud  
 To shake their hand.  
 The ordinary soldier that offered up his all  
 Is paid off with a medal or perhaps a pension very small.  
 Lets do all we can  
 To thank that special Woman or Man.  
 A simple headline in a paper  
 "Our country is in mourning today  
 For all the Soldiers that fought and those that  
 Died for our Freedom in the USA!

*By Deveda Coburn*

## Friendship

I will always remember the friends who came my way  
 You, that eat breakfast at Woodward's,  
 A good way to start the day.  
  
 You gave your friendship to me  
 As I served you coffee or tea.  
  
 I'll always remember those who spoke a friendly word or two  
 And look forward to the times I get to see you.  
  
 I will never forget the people who took the time  
 To share of your self with your heart and mind.  
  
 We all put away the cloak strangers wear  
 As we enjoy the pleasant moments we share.  
  
 We've been drawn together by a friendly smile  
 I will always cherish you my friend  
 You make my life worthwhile.

*By Deveda Coburn*



## Operation Freedom Iraqi War

Freedom for the people that's what the troops are fighting for  
 In the Operation Freedom Iraqi war.  
 In the dessert of heat and sand  
 Our men and women in an unsafe and unfamiliar land.  
 Lord guide and protect our troops over there  
 We have to tell them how much we care.  
 God Bless America, the land of the brave  
 We must honor the courage and devotion our soldiers gave.  
 Let us keep them in mind as we pray  
 All the troops that have been called away.  
 They have given the ultimate their life and limb  
 So our great country would be able to win.  
 For people to live freely on this earth  
 They are fighting for Freedom for everyone, from their day of birth.  
 Remember the day the towers came tumbling down?  
 People jumping from windows, to the ground  
 Everyone running to and fro  
 No one knowing where they should go.  
 Glued to the news on the TV  
 Wondering where our loved ones may be.  
 We were all over taken with fear  
 Even the strong and the bravest were brought to tears.  
 We can't let any of this happen again  
 That's why our troops are over there, some being our relatives and friends  
 God has blessed us with his grace  
 As we bring peace and freedom to a war torn place.  
 No matter what our thoughts are on the war  
 We must remember what they are fighting for.  
 Support our Armed Forces in what they do  
 As they bravely fight to keep Freedom for me and you.

*By Deveda Coburn*

## Our Christmas Gift

Let's not forget the real Christmas Story  
 Of Joseph and Mary and all the Glory.

A child was born on Christmas Day  
 In Bethlehem in a manger of hay.

The Lords angels brought good tidings of joy  
 The Savior, Jesus Christ, was that little boy.

Shinning in the east was a big bright star  
 Shepherds and Wiseman came from afar.

To bring gifts and to see Jesus the Miracle birth  
 It's amazing this all happened right here on Earth.

In Heaven and on Earth all power was given to him  
 He can heal, and has the right to forgive your sin.

When. You think the Lord's not around  
 He is, He just doesn't make a sound.

You can not see Him, for He is the light  
 And he's there in the dark of night.  
 You can not feel Him, for but He is there  
 He's the Love that's in the air.

Don't ever feel you are alone

He's there, Love and caring is how He's known.

*By Deveda Coburn*



# Massachusetts Rifle Association



## MRA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1975.

In 1975, MRA celebrated its 100th anniversary. We had a 50 cal. black powder rifle that was financed by selling bonds without interest. The celebration was outstanding with rifle and pistol shooting events, as well as archery. There were games for the children. It was a glorious time to be a member of Walnut Hill. A beautiful medallion was created to commemorate the occasion; the engraver did a great job symbolizing the Walnut Hill Range in that glorious time. The designers of the medallion were Nathan Guyer, Werner Eckstein, and Arthur White; the engraver Gearhard Smith was also a longtime member. The directors of that era did a superb job for the MRA's 100th anniversary. Editor's comment: On a sad note, the engraver of the medallion thought he was losing his touch, as he was an older gentleman. He died tragically by his own hand, as he could not take the loss of his life-long work. He was a master engraver. As you look at the medallion in all its beauty, the depth of the medallion is beyond mere words, for he captured a moment of time in our hearts and minds for eternity. This was his finest work. He had not lost his edge. He was a shining star, and his death was a great loss to the Hill and the world. God be with him.

## MRA's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coin.

It started right after the 1999 election in October. A committee was established for the 125th anniversary celebration. The committee was composed of Joyce Fortunato, Robert Ouellette, and Robert Summa. We did it all. The board of directors discussed the coin for the anniversary at some length. At first, it was to be a one-sided coin. After a long debate by the board, it was decided that a two-sided coin was the right thing to do, for we could still use the front of the coin for awards in the future. The board left it to the committee to design the coin, and we discussed it for some time. Robert Ouellette had been in the M.R.A. museum and observed some medals that were donated by C.W. Hinman's daughter some time ago before she died. Among the medals was the original M.R.A. seal medal. Bob Ouellette suggested we use this for the coin; we all agreed. We scanned the actual medal and made some changes to it, for it was for the 125th year of the Walnut Hill history. Joyce is a Senior Account Manager at WorldWide Specialty Sales, and worked with Joe Collins, President of Opus by Collins Inc., the supplier of the coin. Joyce showed us some coins that Opus by Collins had made, and it was decided that the back of the coin was to be 3D in appearance. It looked super. Next was the front of the coin. We looked hard at it, and we all made changes to the coin. We had some open space under "Massachusetts Rifle Association" and Bob Ouellette decided to add some stars to balance the coin. It was a good choice. As Bob said, we were getting close to the finished design of the coin. The six stars represent the executive committee members of Walnut Hill. But we were not there yet. As I looked at the design, I read the banner on the coin. In Latin, translated, it read, "With sharp eye and keen mind." This aroused my passion for Walnut Hill. The banner now reads "Walnut Hill." It was a good idea. The design was completed, and went to the die maker. After some time, a lead proof was sent to the M.R.A. for approval. Bob Ouellette ok'd it, and the circle was completed in the Walnut Hill legacy. As the coin was struck, it will live on in infamy in the Legend of Walnut Hill. A round of thanks to the committee for conducting a distinguished job in commemorating M.R.A.'s place in history. The legacy continues on...